Bombay
1923-24

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BOMBAY 1923-24

A Review

of the

Administration of the Presidency

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INTRODUCTION

THIS year's Administration Report is on the same lines as last year. It is divided into two parts.

Part I is a general summary of the year's work.

Part II deals with the work and events of the year under review and is preceded, where necessary, by a note explaining the history and functions of the Department of Government whose work is reviewed and its place in the administration.

Photographs and diagrams have been inserted in the Report as usual. The selling price has been fixed at Rs. 2 per copy.

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Excavations at Mohinja-daro (Sind) where important archæological discoveries have been made.

[Frontispiece.

BOMBAY, 1923-24

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

THE Political situation as outlined at the end of the Political Summary in last year's Administration Report was described as " rather a curious one ". The Moderate party, with an excellent record of work behind it in the Local Legislative Council and in the Legislative Assembly, was, however, discontented and dissatisfied with the constitutional limitations imposed upon its freedom of action in these bodies. Amongst Extremists the diametrically opposed views of the two sections of Congress regarding the boycott of the Legislatures had caused a definite split in their ranks. The situation in Kenya and Hindu-Muslim tension were two other subjects engaging public attention, while there was much speculation as to the results of the Elections for the Local and Central Legislatures which were to take place in November.

Although the Moderates were, as has been indicated, dissatisfied, they were far-seeing enough not to be tempted by the taunts of the non-co-operation party to resign their seats and throw in their lot with the Extremists. They fully realised that non-co-operation as a live political issue was dead and they had no intention of sinking their individuality as a party in a Congress that was hopelessly divided against itself. Moreover, it was known that a strong section in the Congress favoured entry into the Councils and was prepared to put up candidates against members of the Moderate party wherever such action seemed to afford an opportunity of success. The Moderate party, which had been virtually unopposed at the last Election, realised that their supremacy was threatened and the Annual Meeting of the Liberals of the Bombay Presidency held at Karad in the Satara District in May outlined the programme the party was to put before the Electorate and a Central Committee was

appointed to take the necessary steps to organise the party in towns and villages by the collection of funds and propaganda work. The non-Brahmin party declined to amalgamate with the Liberals and decided to keep its organisation distinct from all other parties.

Meanwhile, the Swarajists had not been idle. It will be remembered that about the end of February 1923 an agreement was reached at a meeting held at Allahabad between the two wings of the Congress. It was then decided that all Council propaganda should be suspended by both parties for the next two months but that the "No-change" party should be at liberty to push on their scheme to raise twenty-five lakhs and obtain fifty thousand volunteers and that the Swaraj party should co-operate to this end. This compromise proved satisfactory to neither party and it soon became evident that the Swarajists were in a majority. A special session of the Congress held at Delhi passed a resolution declaring that such Congressmen as had no religious or other conscientious objections against entering the Legislatures were at liberty to stand as candidates and to exercise their rights of voting at the Elections. The resolution also suspended all propaganda against the Legislatures. Anticipating their success at the special session, many members of the Swaraj party had announced their candidature for the Local Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly elections and the party immediately started an intensive election campaign.

The Elections were hotly contested and the percentage of voters who recorded their votes was far higher than in the previous Elections, varying from 39 per cent. to 72·5 per cent., in elections for the Legislative Assembly and from 46·6 per cent. to 64·5 per cent., in elections for the Legislative Council. Out of the 16 Bombay seats in the Legislative Assembly the Swaraj party secured 5. In the Bombay Legislative Council out of the 86 seats the Swaraj party secured 29 including 26 out of the 46 seats in non-Mahomedan constituencies but only 2 out of the 27 in Mahomedan constituencies. The elected members of Council included, in addition to the 29 Swarajists, 3 Independents, 13 non-Brahmins, 35 Moderates and

6 Europeans. The success of the Swarajists was very largely due to their excellent party organisation and the keenness of the candidates and their agents who attended practically all polling stations on the day of the Elections. The Liberals, however, refused to be down-hearted and the sixth session of the National Liberal Federation held at Poona in Christmas week determined to organise its forces, collect funds and concentrate on continuous propaganda in the cause of constitutional progress.

Early in the year 1924 an unexpected factor was introduced into the Political situation by the sudden illness of Mr. Gandhi who was removed from the Yeravda Jail to the Sassoon Hospital in Poona and successfully operated upon for appendicitis. After his recovery, Mr. Gandhi was unconditionally released early in February and at the close of the year under review he was well enough to take part in conversations with the leaders of Congress on the controversial questions, which were still agitating that body.

Turning to external politics, the Bombay Presidency was particularly interested in the situation in Kenya whose Indian population is largely drawn from this Presidency. In the middle of April 1923 a deputation appointed by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly to represent to the Home Government the grievances of Indians in Kenya sailed for England. At the end of July the Home Government's memorandum embodying its conclusions was made public. The memorandum was regarded as unsatisfactory and after the return of the Indian deputation from England in August, a public meeting was held at Poona where retaliatory measures were proposed including the boycott of British goods. In September a special session of the Indian National Congress passed resolutions urging the country to " wipe off the stigma of subjection " and to organise educative propaganda to help the Indians in Kenya. The boycott of British goods was also advocated. Other meetings of protest were held. The Bombay Municipal Corporation and other local bodies passed resolutions of boycott of British goods but the approach of the Elections drew off public attention from

the Kenya question and active agitation died down. Interest was, however, revived early in 1924 when the appointment by the Government of India of the Indian Colonies Committee headed by His Highness the Aga Khan was announced to go to England to lay the Indian case before the Home Government.

The expiration of the term of office of Sir George Lloyd led the Congress and Khilafat Committees to urge the boycott of the usual functions connected with a State departure. These attempts, however, failed and the send-off given to Sir George and Lady Lloyd and the welcome accorded to His Excellency the Governor and Lady Wilson were not affected by the agitation.

Within a few weeks of the arrival of the new Governor, Bombay was surprised by a well organised Satyagraha movement in the Kaira District. An additional force of Police had been posted in the Borsad taluka to check the lawlessness of the Dharala dacoits and the cost of the force, as is usual in such cases, was to be recovered from the people of the taluka. A Satyagraha Committee was formed which advocated the cessation of the voluntary payment of the cess. The progress of the campaign against Government was watched with interest but it came to a speedy conclusion in a few weeks when Government after making special inquiries in the taluka decided to remit the cess.

While Hindu-Muslim relations in the Bombay Presidency have never been characterised by the intense bitterness which has affected these two communities in other parts of India, the relations between them during the year under review were at times distinctly strained and in several places minor incidents were only prevented from developing into serious riots by the vigilance and prompt action of the District Officers and the Police. The Shuddhi movement for the re-conversion of certain Rajput Muslims was particularly resented in Sind where counter-propaganda committees were formed. The feeling of the Mahomedans was shown by their lack of interest in the Congress National Flag Day processions, while the Hindus were conspicuous by their absence from the Turkish peace treaty celebrations. In Mahomedan circles interest at the beginning of the year was centred in negotiations between the

Allies and Turkey to arrive at a satisfactory peace settlement and to a lesser degree on the alleged mismanagement of the funds subscribed for the Central Khilafat Committee. The latter's attitude towards the Shuddhi movement did not tend to increase its popularity and after the signing of the Turkish Peace Treaty it was even suggested that the usefulness of the Central Khilafat Committee was past. In October the Angora Assembly decided on a Republican form of Government. The new position of the Khilafat gave rise to considerable speculation and the announcement made from Angora regarding the absolute right of Turkey to elect her own Khalif without outside interference was regarded as a snub direct to Indian Khilafatists. The later decision of the Angora Government to depose the Khalif and abolish the Khilafat was received with consternation but the bulk of Muslim opinion was equally against King Hussain for his assumption of the office of Khilafat.

At the close of the year under review the attention of all parties was concentrated on the Central and Local Legislatures, the attitude of the Swarajists towards the financial proposals of Government, and the effect of organised obstruction on the working of the Reforms.

Finance.—In his speech to the Legislative Council at the opening of the Budget session in February 1924 His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson pointed out that it was a source of satisfaction that Government could present a budget which in spite of increased expenditure showed a surplus of revenue over expenditure while maintaining that balance which it was necessary to keep in hand having regard to the precarious character of the annual revenue of the Province. This result had not been obtained without the most stringent economy and Government would have wished that more full provision had been possible for public services such as Education, Medical Relief, Roads and other public needs. The Budget speech of the Honourable Mr. H. S. Lawrence showed that the year 1922-23 closed with a reserve balance of 402 lakhs. In the current year 1923-24 a surplus of 25 lakhs and a closing balance of 427 lakhs was anticipated and Government were asking for a Budget for 1924-25 which would give a closing balance of 438 lakhs.

The Finance Member again pointed out the nature and character of Bombay's grievance against the Meston Settlement, and referred to " the mischief already done by the hasty adoption of a doctrinaire system of federal finance, which was evolved in 1920, without a parallel or precedent in any country in the world ". The Finance Member illustrated the effect of the system upon an industrial province like Bombay by pointing out that while the province contributed something like 8 crores in income-tax to the Government of India or 40 per cent. of the total income-tax in all India it received nothing whatever from this revenue. In Bombay, he said " we obtain no benefit from our industrial activities while we have to meet the far higher standard of expenditure imposed by industrial needs ".

There was a serious set-back in the year under review under the most important head of land revenue receipts. The budget estimate for the year stood at 5,75 lakhs land revenue, in addition to 47 lakhs under irrigation, a total of 6,22 lakhs. The final accounts of the year showed that the actual revenue was 5,09 lakhs land revenue *plus* 69 lakhs for irrigation, or a total decrease of 44 lakhs. The revenue under this head is always subject to heavy fluctuations between a margin of 4½ crores and 6¼ crores owing to the policy of grant of suspensions and remissions on a liberal scale.

Owing to the continued depression in trade the stamp revenue amounted to 1,80 lakhs or 10 lakhs less than the estimate.

The adverse effect of the decline of these two heads of revenue was to some extent counterbalanced by an improvement in excise revenue estimated in the budget of 1923-24 at 4,02 lakhs but which stood in the final accounts at 4,35 lakhs of rupees. The increase was due to the issue prices of liquor being raised from time to time, as consumption has fallen since the year 1920-21 by over 32 per cent. from 28 lakhs of gallons in that year to 18½ lakhs in the year under review.

The Entertainments Tax produced a little less than Rs. 9½ lakhs instead of the estimated 16 lakhs.

The total advance drawn from the Government of India during the year 1923-24 for development and other general

purposes was Rs. 10,25 lakhs. Out of this amount Rs. 8,68 lakhs were for Development purposes and the rest for general purposes. Out of the 8,68 lakhs, 2,79 lakhs were utilised by the Development Department proper, 89 lakhs were advanced to the Bombay Improvement Trust, 3,40 lakhs to the Bombay Municipality and 1,60 lakhs to the Bombay Port Trust.

Trade and Commerce.—During the year the trade of the Presidency maintained the even tenor of its way with two main exceptions, the one favourable and the other unfavourable. Indian cotton, the great staple of Bombay's export trade, yielded record export figures, *viz.*, 528,000 tons valued at Rs. 75½ crores which represented nearly 22 per cent. of the total value of the Indian Empire's exports of indigenous produce and manufacture. As a result of these heavy shipments of raw cotton the Presidency's favourable balance of trade in merchandise improved from Rs. 14 crores to more than Rs. 26½ crores, despite the fact that the value of the remaining exports was nearly Rs. 4½ crores down. But while raw cotton boomed, the Indian mills which used it as raw material naturally suffered, especially in the export market. The value of the despatches of yarns declined by more than Rs. 1¾ crores, and though piecegoods were exported in larger quantities their total value was Rs. 52 lakhs less than in the preceding year. In fact the only important article of export apart from raw cotton which improved in value was seeds, and even then the quantity shipped contracted. The total foreign trade (private) excluding treasure of the Presidency proper in the year 1923-24 was valued at Rs. 204 crores showing an increase of Rs. 13·43 crores or 7 per cent. over the figures of the previous year.

Imports of merchandise showed a small advance of Rs. 39 lakhs; in view of the fact that the trend of prices was still downwards, this cannot be accounted altogether unsatisfactory. Imports of all textile fabrics expanded; cotton piecegoods improved by nearly Rs. 4 crores, woollen piecegoods by Rs. 45 lakhs, silk piecegoods by Rs. 16 lakhs, mixed silk and cotton goods by Rs. 9½ lakhs, artificial silk and mixed cotton and artificial silk goods by Rs. 57 lakhs, and the general head apparel by Rs. 19 lakhs. These fabrics were imported to meet a genuine

consumptive demand. The harassing uncertainty regarding cotton prices prevented big business, and consequently stocks remained low. The same uncertainty affected the yarn trade, and as Bombay had bought cheaply and largely in the preceding year, her imports during 1923-24 were nearly Rs. 1 crore down. Metals and ores again advanced, in quantity by 50,000 tons and in value by Rs. 48 lakhs. As a result of intensive effort and her increased post-war productive capacity, the United Kingdom regained her position as the chief steel exporting country in the world, and Bombay proved a large customer. Imports of machinery and mill work receded by nearly Rs. 2¾ crores; this reflects the hard times through which the textile industry is passing. A very unsteady world market made sugar dealers cautious, and imports decreased markedly.

The direction of Bombay's trade was substantially unchanged. The shares of the United Kingdom and of the Empire as a whole declined somewhat, but there was a very welcome increase in the trade with Continental Europe, especially on the export side. Germany lost ground, but practically every other country advanced, in particular Italy. Japan's shipments to India declined slightly, but owing to the high price of cotton her share in the total trade rose once more.

India's favourable balance of trade was as usual liquidated in large measure by imports into Bombay of the precious metals. Arrivals of gold and silver on private account did not attain to the record figure of the previous year, but nevertheless amounted to Rs. 47 crores. Supplies of gold fell away by Rs. 12 crores, but silver advanced by nearly Rs. 1 crore.

The gross revenue collected by the Bombay Custom House declined from Rs. 12,44¼ lakhs to nearly Rs. 11,80 lakhs. These figures exclude collections of Rs. 8½ lakhs on account of cotton, tea and indigo cesses.

The aggregate value of the coasting trade decreased by Rs. 3·11 crores to Rs. 79·58 crores owing mainly to smaller arrivals of rice from Burma and wheat from Sind. On the other hand arrivals of raw cotton advanced by Rs. 1·42 crores to Rs. 16·18 crores owing to larger shipments from Sind, Cutch and Southern Maratha Country *via* Goa.

The total value of the maritime trade of the Province of Sind reached the record figure of Rs. 89 crores 81 lakhs, an increase of 26 per cent. over the previous year's figure and of 59 per cent. over that of pre-war year 1913-14. The coasting trade accounted for 26 per cent. and the foreign trade 74 per cent. The gross receipts of the Port decreased by Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 366 lakhs.

Agriculture.—In the introduction to his annual report the Director of Agriculture referred to certain important features in the present agricultural economic situation. He pointed out that the cotton crop continues to be the main source of agricultural wealth to the Province and owing to the sustained high prices which have prevailed during and since the War there is much prosperity in the principal cotton tracts.

On the other hand the sugar cane industry is going through a period of depression. During the war the beet sugar industry which previously contributed about half the total sugar production of the world, was completely dislocated. In consequence of this and also in response to the increased demand for sugar during the War the cane sugar industry entered upon a period of prosperity. Since the conclusion of the War the beet industry has largely recovered and the sugar supply of the world is abundant while the purchasing capacity of the people in most countries has fallen—hence there has been a slump in sugar values which has not been associated with a corresponding reduction in cost of production which has risen greatly in this Presidency. In the year under report the sugar cane grower was faced not only with an unfavourable season but with a very poor market—the price falling at one time to Rs. 18 per palla of 250 lbs.

"Thus many growers," says the Director, "have incurred a loss on their sugar cane crop and tenants are demanding a reduction of rents while some have actually run away. It is anticipated that there will be a considerable contraction in the area under sugar cane in the current season (1924-25) amounting to perhaps 10 per cent. on the Deccan Canals. This Department is therefore giving special attention to the problem of reducing the cost of production, more particularly through the

reduction of the heavy applications of costly artificial manures which could be economically adopted in the years of prosperity.

Another important fact, revealed by statistics, is the loss of efficiency in recent years of the wells used for irrigation. The figures are somewhat disconcerting but it is recognised that the efficiency of most of our wells ultimately depend upon the performance of preceding monsoons and there is reason to anticipate that the recent very heavy rains in Gujarat will materially contribute to the recuperation of the underground sources of water supply."

The most noticeable feature of the agricultural season of 1923-24 was the late breaking of the monsoon and its abrupt withdrawal much before the usual time. The result was that except in the Konkan, in the vicinity of the Western Ghats and in the irrigated areas the outturn of crops—both Kharif and Rabi—fell far short of the average. In Sind, however crop yields were, on the whole, satisfactory.

In the Presidency proper the gross area cropped declined by 232,000 acres, the districts that mainly contributed to this decline being the whole of Gujarat (— 127,000 acres), Ahmednagar (— 71,000 acres), Poona (— 109,000 acres), Satara (— 77,000 acres) and Belgaum (— 48,000 acres), due to unfavourable rains. Against this there was a rise in West Khandesh (44,000 acres), Nasik (90,000 acres), Bijapur (57,000 acres) and Dharwar (37,000 acres), due to the suitability of rains at sowing time. The area cropped more than once showed a decrease of 389,000 acres, the decrease being shared by all the districts,—thus reflecting the deficiency of the monsoon during the year. The net area cropped increased by 156,000 acres.

In Sind, the gross and net cropped areas rose by 59 and 88 thousand acres or by 1·4 and 2·2 per cent. respectively mostly in the south but the twice cropped area declined by about 30,000 acres, the decrease being shared by all the districts.

The assessed occupied area remained almost the same in the Presidency and in Sind but the unassessed cultivated area fell by 5·3 per cent. in the Presidency and rose by 11·4 per cent. in Sind.

*

Three-fourths of the cultivated area of the Presidency is devoted to growing food-stuffs, bajri, paddy, wheat and gram being the most important crops. Cotton is the largest non-food crop.

Department of Agriculture.—The Department has now been in existence for over 40 years during which time it has devoted its attention to ascertaining, by experiment, investigation and research, methods by which the produce of agriculture can economically be increased in quantity and improved in quality. It has also taken steps to get these methods introduced into practice. Special attention is devoted to cotton which is so important a crop in this Presidency. Improved strains have been put out in the Dharwar area, one of which is estimated to give an increased yield of Rs. 13 per acre ; while in the Surat area a new strain has been introduced by the Department and extensively grown with the result that a premium of from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per candy has been obtained for the lint. Improved strains of rice, wheat and jowar have also been put out and the introduction of the Spanish pea-nut variety has led to a marked increase in the area under ground-nut. Special research schemes, most of which are financed by outside sources including the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Sassoon David Trust Fund, deal with the devising of means to check insect pests and the finding of remedies for the diseases of various plants, improvement of varieties, etc. Improvements in the methods of agriculture have achieved good results especially in Surat where ridge cultivation has resulted in a remarkable improvement in the yield.

The Agricultural Engineering Department during the year paid special attention to the designing of implements, while the Horticultural branch was engaged in work connected with fruits. The Department also rendered direct services to the public in connection with the supply of seeds, implements and manure, the boring of wells and the designing of pumping installations.

There were 173 students on the rolls of the Poona Agricultural College which continued to maintain its position as probably the best known Agricultural College in the East.

The expenditure on the Department was Rs. 15,12,000 and receipts Rs. 3,39,000.

Education.—The number of pupils receiving education in recognised institutions is rapidly approaching the million mark. In 1923 there were 13,512 recognised institutions and the number of pupils attending was just over 947,000, an increase of over 35,000 on the previous year. Unrecognised institutions decreased by 150 with the result that there was a net increase in the number of institutions and of pupils under instruction of 93 and 32,000, respectively; 8 per cent. of the male population and 2·1 per cent. of the female population were attending educational establishments. In Indian States the percentages were 6·9 and 1·5. In British Districts out of a total of 26,736 towns and villages 9,736 possessed schools, the average area served by each school being 12·7 square miles, compared with the average area in Indian States of 19·5 square miles. Expenditure on Public Instruction rose by over 16 lakhs to approximately Rs. 328 lakhs. To this total Government funds contributed 57·8 per cent., District Local Boards 3·1 per cent., Municipal Boards 11·per cent., Fees 16·5 per cent. and other sources 11·6 per cent. Over half the expenditure was absorbed by primary schools and amounted to Rs. 166¾ lakhs exclusive of expenditure on inspection, construction and repairs. The number of pupils in primary schools was over 723,000. There was a steady increase in the number of pupils from those sections of the population which have been regarded as the Backward communities including Mahomedans, Marathas, Kolis, Kunbis and other cultivating classes, artisans and Lingayats. There was also an increase in the total number of pupils of the Depressed Classes, nearly 48,000 of whom are receiving education.

Law and Justice.—During the 12 months ending the 31st of March 1924 five Acts were passed by the Legislative Council and became law. Fifteen Government Bills were introduced and 3 private Bills. Of the 30 Resolutions on matters of general public interest 21 were carried, 6 were negatived, 2 withdrawn and the discussion of the remaining one was not completed.

Particulars of the Acts, Bills and Resolutions will be found in Part II.

More than 308,000 cases of all kinds were tried in the courts of the Presidency proper excluding Sind during the year 1923. The aggregate value of the suits instituted amounted to Rs. 572 lakhs, while the value of the 33,900 cases instituted in the Bombay Small Causes Court amounted to nearly Rs. 111 lakhs. Nearly 86 per cent. of the suits were for sums below Rs. 500. The total receipts of all the courts in the Presidency amounted to Rs. 93,80,000 and the expenditure to Rs. 45,68,000.

Of the 184,000 offences which came before the Criminal courts during the year—an increase of 15,000—over 182,000 were dealt with by magistrates. The great majority of the cases were comparatively trivial ones as out of 153,000 persons convicted nearly 124,000 were let off with a fine. Of the 16,312 persons sentenced to imprisonment 6,279 received less than 15 days.

Police and Crime.—Conditions both economic and political being generally more favourable, the year 1923 was, on the whole, a successful one from the Police point of view. The rounding up and destruction of dangerous dacoit gangs in Kathiawar and Gujarat were perhaps the most gratifying successes of the year. In the Bombay Presidency including Sind there was an increase of just over 10,000 in the number of cognisable and non-cognisable offences reported during the year, the total being 130,254. Cognisable cases, that is, those in which the police can arrest without a warrant and which therefore include the most serious offences showed a reduction of over 1,500 in Classes I to V or including Class VI (offences under Special and Local Laws against religion, etc.) the decrease was 484, the lowest for the past 5 years. As the increase in cases under Class VI was mainly due to the large number of cases under the Public Conveyances Act and the Criminal Tribes Act, the very marked decrease in the other Classes related to serious crime and is therefore a matter for gratification. The fall in serious crime was most marked under thefts and house-breaking and dacoity, and receiving stolen property also decreased considerably. There was, however,

an increase in robbery and a slight increase in offences against the person and in murder and attempts at murder. The successful prosecution of gang cases and receivers was the cause of the decrease in offences under 'receiving stolen property'. As regards the incidence of serious crime per thousand of population, Bombay stands 7th amongst the Provinces of India as compared with 5th in 1921, the incidence of total reported cognisable crime being 1·797. The Sind figures were more than double those of the Presidency proper (3·592 compared with 1·401). In the Presidency proper, according to the statistics, the Bombay Suburban District continued to be the most criminal and Ratnagiri the least criminal amongst the districts. In Sind the corresponding districts were Karachi Head-quarters and Thar and Parkar. The percentage of undetected cases to cases disposed of was 37·9 and the Inspector General again urges the expansion in the Presidency of the Criminal Investigation Department and the establishment of a detective training institution. During the year the value of property stolen was estimated at over Rs. 21¾ lakhs, of which over 7 lakhs were recovered. In over half of the cases in which property was stolen, property was recovered. The sanctioned strength of the Police in the Presidency including Sind and the Railways was 1,059 officers and 21,871 men, the total cost being nearly 125¾ lakhs. The average cost per policeman was just over Rs. 517.

Bombay City Police.—In his annual report the Commissioner of Police, Bombay refers to 1923 as another uneventful year in which no undue strain was placed on the Police as a result either of political excitement or of industrial trouble. There was an increase of nearly 10,000 in the total number of cases. This was largely due to the increase in petty offences such as prosecutions against hawkers for causing obstruction and prosecutions under the Public Conveyances Act. In serious offences against the person and property there was an increase of 69, the number of murders rising from 30 to 38. The total value of property alleged to have been stolen amounted to over Rs. 22¾ lakhs—almost the same as in the previous year—the total value of property recovered being 4¾ lakhs.

The total number of motor vehicles running in Bombay City was nearly 9,000, but there were fewer fatal motor accidents than in the previous year, an improvement probably due to the better methods of traffic control which have been introduced into the City. In Calcutta which has much the same population as Bombay and a much larger police force, there were 63 accidents in 1923 against 56 in Bombay.

Public Health.—Compared with 1922, when the death-rate was the lowest for 33 years, the year under report showed in comparison a high mortality. But the increase of 33,663 deaths, making a total of 496,244, was mainly the result of epidemics, plague, cholera, measles and small-pox which carried off over 50,000 people or three and a half times the number who died from these diseases in 1922. The mortality from other diseases was no worse than the average for the past 2 or 3 years. The births exceeded the deaths by about 186,000 which shows that the birth-rate has now recovered from the severe set-back received in the influenza epidemic of 1918 which carried off so many young women. The recorded death-rate for the whole Presidency worked out at nearly 25·9 per thousand. By far the largest number of deaths are attributed to " fevers " with " other causes " and respiratory diseases the next in importance.

On an average over 2½ million patients are treated every year in the Dispensaries and Hospitals of the Presidency which are maintained out of Public, Local or Municipal funds or receive aid from Government. The total number of these institutions is 785. Of the total treated, 73,000 were in-patients and 2,487,000 out-patients. The number of beds available was 6,596.

During the year urgent measures were taken to relieve the overcrowding at the Grant Medical College, where the inadequacy of the clinical material available for the number of students attending it attracted the attention of the General Medical Council of Great Britain. These measures included the utilisation of the Municipal Maternity Homes for practical midwifery teaching and the next was to admit students to the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital for medical and surgical work. A distinguished Honorary Staff was also appointed.

Salt.—The outstanding features of the year were (1) the entire separation with effect from the 1st March 1924 of the Salt Department establishment from that of the Excise Department which had been amalgamated since 17th September 1917, and (2) the restoration of duty to Re. 1-4-0 per maund with effect from 1st March 1924 the last month of the official year. The production of salt at Kharaghoda was restricted to 29½ lakhs of maunds owing to the large stock of salt on hand due to (*a*) over-production during previous years and (*b*) the existence of the agreement with the Dhrangadhra State to purchase annually 5 lakhs of salt produced by the State at Kuda. The produce of the sea salt works (excluding Dharasna and Chharwada agars) was as successful as during the previous year, 104½ lakhs of maunds having been produced against 105 lakhs in the preceding year. The Chharwada salt works were entirely shut down during this season owing to large stocks of salt at Dharasna and Chharwada and the produce at Dharasna was restricted to 2·83 lakhs of maunds. The issues of salt for consumption in the Presidency proper decreased from 13·72 lbs. per head of population to 12·87 lbs. The reduction was due to lesser removals of salt during the year in anticipation of a fall in the rate of duty which induced salt vendors to buy the least quantity of salt. The market prices of salt showed a further increase due to the doubling of the rate of duty, which was introduced from 1st March 1923. The removals of Magnesium Chloride from Kharaghoda decreased—from 12,772 cwts. to 5,457 cwts.—on account of foreign competition ; less refined salt also was removed but the amount of denatured salt removed for manurial purposes during the year was nearly double owing to the reduction in the issue price from Rs. 1-2-0 to 13 annas per maund.

Excise.—The outstanding feature of the year was a further decline in the consumption of country and foreign liquor which, in the case of country liquor amounted to 89,000 gallons bringing the total reduction since 1919-20 to no fewer than 1,021,000 gallons or 35·7 per cent. The fall was most marked in urban areas, *i.e.*, district headquarter towns and towns with a population of 10,000 and upwards, while a slight increase occurred in

rural areas. In rural areas the per capita consumption in drams is 2·4 and in urban areas 14, from which it is clear that not only is the drink problem in this Presidency essentially an urban one, but that great strides have been taken in recent years to bring down consumption to a low level.

The fall in the consumption of liquor was accompanied by a striking increase of 403,000 gallons in the consumption of toddy. But while these figures indicate largely increased consumption, it cannot be affirmed with any degree of certainty that it replaced country liquor to any material extent. The detailed statistics show that in some districts a fall in the consumption of country liquor was accompanied by a fall in toddy and *vice versa* and it would appear that the reasons for the increase were apparently of a local character; while the fact that the increase of 4,262 licenses in the Presidency proper occurred mainly under the head of Domestic Consumption Licenses would further support the inference that the increased consumption occurred amongst a class who ordinarily use toddy and not amongst those who are addicted to country liquor.

"Government are of opinion that although the reasons for this remarkable decline are largely economic, inasmuch as the high cost of living amongst the poorer classes leaves them a comparatively small margin for expenditure on luxuries like drink, the most important factor which keeps down consumption at the present day is the high price of liquor itself," says the Resolution reviewing the Excise Administration Report. "This is due in the first place to the increase of still-head duty and the adoption of unrestricted auction as the normal mode of disposing of the right of vend. But it is undoubted that rationing by inducing the licensees to raise prices in the hope of making the maximum profits from the minimum sales plays no small part in producing the result".

Excise crime again showed an increase of 612 cases out of which 419 related to liquor, but Government are of opinion that the problem of eradicating this species of crime is as much a question of vigilance on the part of the Excise Department as of the gradual weaning of those addicted to drink, and finding

other avenues of employment for those who have been the purveyors of it.

The financial results of the working of the Department were satisfactory. The receipts from still-head duty decreased by Rs. 13,33,000 owing to the fall in the consumption of country liquor. But the decrease was counterbalanced by an increase of over Rs. 22 lakhs under vend and license fees. The total revenue from all sources in the whole Presidency including Sind and Aden was Rs. 4,21,62,000 against Rs. 3,98,17,000 in the previous year.

Forests.—Nearly 15,000 square miles or approximately 12 per cent. of the area of the Presidency is classified as " Forests " and is worked by the Forest Department as a commercial undertaking, for it is a State revenue-producing asset which is still far from being fully exploited. In the year 1923-24 the net surplus was over 27 lakhs, a percentage of surplus to gross revenue of 38·4. The total expenditure on management was Rs. 19,18,000 and the outturn of forest produce from all sources was—

Timber—6,346,000 cubic feet, and

Fuel—45,883,000 cubic feet.

The Chief Conservator in his annual report points out that the decrease in the surplus, as compared with the previous year, was due not only to an increase in the working expenditure but also to an increase in the capital expenditure from revenue. The latter undoubtedly increases the value of the forest property and will result in greater returns in future. He adds " The slump in trade which immediately followed the short-lived post-war boom has swept out of existence many a concern but the Forest Department in Bombay has shown a handsome surplus all through, which not all Provinces could show. With all this the management is more scientific than ever it was." It should be noted, moreover, that the forests are not the close preserve which it is sometimes suggested they are. Nearly 2½ million cattle were admitted to grazing in the forests and less than 18 per cent. of the area under forests is closed to animals for the whole or part

of the year. In addition, the Forest Department supplied nearly 4 million pounds of grass to districts affected by scarcity out of the store of 12 million pounds of pressed grass which it had collected.

Co-operative Movement.—An unfavourable agricultural season in some parts of the Presidency again reacted on the progress of the co-operative movement. There was, however, a satisfactory increase both in the number of members and in the working capital which now stand at 350,000 and 6¼ crores respectively. The total number of societies in the Presidency is 3,743 and compared with last year societies show an increase of over 200, members of over 21,000 and the working capital of nearly 86 lakhs. On the credit side the most noticeable feature was the progress of the District and Urban banks. The deposits in the district banks increased from 64 to 91 lakhs. Similarly in the case of the Provincial Bank, the working capital increased by 20 lakhs to 105 lakhs. The increase is all the more satisfactory when one remembers that during a part of the year when the money market was extremely tight and the Imperial Bank rate stood as high as 9 per cent. not only were the Provincial Bank and District Banks not compelled to increase their rate on deposits, but had actually to lower it as they had a large surplus on hand, thus proving the strong position they now hold.

Urban Credit Societies have made progress not only as regards number and working capital, but in the giving of extended banking facilities and familiarising their members with banking methods. There are 411 societies of this kind out of which 39 are classed as Urban Banks. In the case of agricultural credit societies attention was paid more to consolidation and improvement than to fresh organization and yet the societies newly organised numbered 200. Overdues were diminished and supervision rendered more regular and effective while an important advance made during the year was in the direction of more adequate finance of members after proper inquiry. Good progress has been made in the case of societies for co-operative marketing. The value of cotton sold through these societies during the year came to 53½ lakhs, and of molasses about 10 lakhs. The Bombay Central Co-operative Institute which

focusses the non-official activities in the Presidency continued to make satisfactory progress.

Public Works.—Over Rs. 17 lakhs were spent on new roads and additions and alterations to existing ones, while repairs to roads cost Rs. 31 lakhs during the year 1923-24.

The more important works either completed or in progress included a two storeyed Telegraph Office at Ahmedabad on the site of the old Telegraph Office, destroyed in the riots of 1919; Police accommodation schemes in Bombay City; additional accommodation for maternity cases at the Cama and Albless Hospitals, Bombay; the Pharmacological Laboratory and the King Edward Memorial Hospital at Parel; the new Jail for under-trial prisoners at Arthur Road and the Gateway of India. The latter was opened by His Excellency the Viceroy on December 4, 1924. The District and Sub-Civil Courts at Poona estimated to cost about Rs. 15 lakhs were completed up to plinth level, while the Lloyd Bridge at Poona which cost over Rs. 16 lakhs was opened for traffic on 1st March 1924. The Central Prison at Hindalgi in the Belgaum District which provides accommodation for 700 prisoners was completed and handed over to the Jail Department.

Important additions are being made to the public buildings in Karachi. The new Revenue Offices on the old Jail site have been completed at a total cost of over Rs. 8,70,000 and the Judicial Courts on the Artillery Maidan, which are estimated to cost about Rs. 33 lakhs, have been completed up to plinth level, and work on the ground floor of the buildings is in progress.

On the Lloyd Barrage and Canals Scheme the close contour survey which was started in 1921 was practically completed. The work of constructing the barrage and canals was commenced from the 1st of July and the requisite establishment recruited. Good progress was also made in the purchase of tools, plant and machinery and the collection of materials, the building of quarters, the laying of railways, survey and lay out of quarries and quarry sidings and various other works in connection with the inception of so vast a scheme. The total expenditure on works during the year amounted to Rs. 23½ lakhs. Very satisfactory progress was made on irrigation works under construction

in the Deccan. The masonry dam of Lake Arthur Hill, the storage reservoir of the Pravara Canals has now almost reached the designed height of 270 feet. The canals have already been excavated and the whole scheme will be completed in the working season of 1925-26.

The Nira Right Bank Canal when completed will be the largest in the Deccan. The project comprises the construction of a new masonry dam, the Lloyd Dam, which will replace the existing dam and provide a supply to the old Left Bank and the new Right Bank canals. It is hoped that the dam and the first 90 miles of the canal will be completed by the end of the year 1926 and irrigation commenced in 1924-25. The expenditure incurred on 'Works' alone during the year on the two projects in the Deccan amounted to nearly Rs. 36 lakhs.

Development Department.—The main feature of the year's work was the commencement of the filling of the Back Bay Reclamation at Colaba in December 1923. The reclamation and housing schemes made satisfactory progress; but, as in 1922-23, work in the suburbs was curtailed, and the staff reduced, pending a more active demand for the developed building sites which have already been made available.

The gantry at Marine Lines was extended to 6,550 feet from zero during the year and the rubble mound, with protection blocks, to 6,480 feet, the total quantity of stone deposited being 90,000 tons. The concrete wall was completed to 5,630 feet from zero by 31st March 1924. The work on the sea wall at Colaba proceeded rapidly during the year. The concrete wall on rubble mound was completed for a distance of 3,736 feet, making with the 2,000 feet of concrete wall built directly on the reef, a total length of completed wall of 5,736 feet. Arrangements for dredging across the Colaba peninsula were made during the year, the amount of material deposited by the end of the year approximating 500,000 cubic yards.

No work was executed in the East Colaba Reclamation except that a branch line (2,032 feet in length) with the necessary level crossing over the Colaba Road was completed.

As regards industrial housing the programme provided for the completion of 135 chawls by 31st March 1924, against which the equivalent of 131 chawls had been finished by that date. The total number of chawl buildings fully completed was 80, of which 49 were handed over for letting. In the remaining 31 chawls arrangements for water supply, drainage and sewer connections were not quite complete.

The only new housing scheme embarked on during the year was at Sewri, where sufficient land has been leased from the Bombay Port Trust for the construction of 16 chawls (1,280 tenements) for the workmen at the New Cotton Depot. The contract for the construction of these chawls was let towards the end of the year.

As regards Suburban Development, the year covered by the present report was one of almost complete stagnation in the property market, the primary cause being the slump following the speculative period of 1919-20. What sales took place were at prices about half of those obtaining in the boom of 1919. A contributing factor in the low prices now ruling for land in the suburbs is doubtless the fact that the notifications of Government have covered a very large amount of good building land within a convenient distance of Bombay, and the public are aware that these lands will be gradually developed, as demand arises, and sold at prices representing little more than the cost of acquisition *plus* cost of development. Any further speculative boom in Bombay Suburban land would indeed appear to be rendered practically impossible by the fact that the Development Department will, for twenty or thirty years to come, be in a position to meet all demands from the public in the Suburban Area. In outer Bombay, there is probably now as much developed land as is required for present purposes, and it is obvious that, so far as Suburban Schemes financed by Government are concerned, it would be imprudent to undertake further liability unless and until there comes about a general move to the suburbs by a large section of Bombay's inhabitants. Progress in most of the schemes was, therefore, slowed down and expenditure curtailed.

No fresh Town Planning Schemes were sanctioned during the year, but the six sanctioned in 1922-23, and the eleven during the year 1921-22, seventeen in all, were in various stages of preparation.

The Salsette-Trombay Railway was practically completed as a single line by the end of the year except for the bridge over the G. I. P. Railway at Kurla.

PART II

CHAPTER I

INDIAN STATES

THE territories under the rule of Indian Princes and Chiefs extend over an area of 63,453 square miles, or more than one-third of the entire area of the Presidency. The variety of the relations which, under the terms of the several treaties, subsist between the British Government and the rulers of the different States and the general superintendence exercised by Government as the Paramount Power, necessitate the presence of an Agent or representative at the principal Courts. The smaller and less important States are either grouped together under the general supervision of a Political Agent or are looked after by the Collectors of the districts within the local limits of which they may happen to be situated. The position of the Agent varies, roughly speaking, with the importance of the State. In some cases he does little more than give advice and exercise a general surveillance. In other cases Agents are invested with a direct share in the administration; while States in which the ruler is a minor are directly managed by Government Officers or under arrangements approved by Government. In connection with the administration of the two last named classes of States, a large amount of judicial work devolves on the Governor in Council, in criminal cases as a Court of Reference and Appeal, and in civil matters as a Court of Appeal. The supervision of all the Indian States in this Presidency rested until October 1924 with the Government of Bombay, with the exception of that of Baroda, where the Resident Political Officer is an Agent to the Governor-General.

In the following review of the administration of the Indian States in political relation with the Government of Bombay the States are arranged in groups according to their geographical position.

The States of Kathiawar and North Gujarat, forming the most important group, lie mostly to the north of the Narbada and comprise an area more than twice as large as that of all the remaining States.

The South Gujarat States, which lie to the south of the Tapti, are comparatively unimportant.

The Maratha States fall into four groups. The North and South Konkan groups lie below the ghats to the north and south of Bombay, respectively. The Deccan and Southern Maratha Country States are situated in the central and southern portions of the Bombay Deccan.

The Province of Sind contains one State. The Settlement of Aden, including Perim, directly administered by the Government of Bombay, is also included in this review.

The population of these States is 7½ millions, and their gross revenue nearly Rs. 9 crores.

As from 10th October 1924 the States in the Kathiawar, Cutch and Palanpur Agencies have been placed in direct Political relation with the Government of India. This decision was announced in a Government of India communique dated November 10, 1923, which said :—

"In pursuance of general policy advocated in paragraph No. 310 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report measures have already been taken in various parts of India to place more important Indian States in direct relation with the Government of India. The States in the Punjab were brought into direct relations with the Government of India two years ago and those in Madras on October 1st last. The application of this policy to the States situated in the Bombay Presidency presented special difficulties owing to the large number of States concerned and the interlacing of their territories with neighbouring British districts.

"It would, however, obviously be inconsistent and undesirable to exclude this very important body of Indian States for an indefinite period from a policy which was always intended for application throughout India and it is confidently anticipated that the difficulties referred to above can be successfully surmounted provided that the new policy is gradually applied and with due consideration to local circumstances.

"The Government of India with the approval of the Secretary of State have accordingly decided to assume by stages direct relations with Bombay States. The first stage will be carried out at an early date as soon as the necessary administrative arrangements are completed. This stage represents a substantial advance towards the ultimate goal. It involves the creation of a new Residency in direct relations with the Government of India comprising the whole of the compact area which at present goes to make up the Kathiawar, Cutch and Palanpur Agencies under the Government of Bombay.

"No decision has yet been arrived at regarding the nature and date of the further stages in the process of transfer. Such decisions must largely be dependent on the experience gained during the first stage but it is not proposed to take any further steps earlier than five years hence."

The three Agencies have been combined into one called the Western India States Agency and placed under a First Class Resident and Agent to the Governor-General with head-quarters at Rajkot.

They include 187 States in Kathiawar with an area of 20,882 square miles and a population of 2,542,535, 18 States in Palanpur with an area of

6,393 square miles and a population of 518,566 and Cutch State, 7,616 square miles and a population of 484,547, a total of 206 States with an area of 34,891 square miles and a population of 3,545,648.

1. North Gujarat

1. *CUTCH

Ruling Prince with a salute of 17 guns and, within State limits, of 19 guns—

His Highness Maharaja Dhiraj Mirza Maharao Shri Sir Khengarji Savai Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Maharao of Cutch; *Residence*—Bhuj; *Caste*—Jadeja Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—57; *Educated*—privately at Bhuj; *Has male heirs.*

Area—7,616 square miles (exclusive of the Runn which is about 9,000 square miles); *Population (1921)*—484,547; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 39,10,805; *Tribute to the British Government*—Nil; *Principal articles of production*—Wheat, bajri, inferior cereals and cotton; *Manufactures*—Silver articles, coarse cotton cloth, silk stuffs, alum and saltpetre.

2. KATHIAWAR

Ruling Princes with a salute of 13 guns and, within State limits, of 15 guns—

His Highness Mahabatkhan Rasulkhan, Nawab of Junagadh, His Highness has a personal salute of 15 guns; *Residence*—Junagadh; *Tribe and religion*—Babi, Musulman; *Age*—23; *Educated*—Mayo College, Ajmere; *Has male heir.*

Lieutenant-Colonel (Hony.) His Highness Jam Shri Sir Ranjitsinhji Vibhaji, G.C.S.I., G.B.E., Maharaja of Nawanagar, His Highness has a personal salute of 15 guns; *Residence*—Jamnagar; *Caste*—Jadeja Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—52; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot and Cambridge University; *Has no male heir.*

His Highness Shri Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Maharaja of Bhavnagar; *Residence*—Bhavnagar; *Caste*—Gohel Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—12; Being educated at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Ruling Princes with a salute of 13 guns—

His Highness Sir Ghanshyamsinhji Ajitsinhji, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Dhrangadhra; *Residence*—Dhrangadhra; *Caste*—Jhala Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—35; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and England; *Has male heir.*

His Highness Rana Shri Natvarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Maharaja of Porbandar; *Residence*—Porbandar; *Caste*—Jethwa Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—23; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has no male heir.*

* Report for the year 1923-24 not available.

Ruling Princes with a salute of 11 guns—

His Highness Thakor Saheb Shri Lakhdirji Waghji of Morvi; *Residence*—Morvi; *Caste*—Jadeja Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—47; *Educated*—in England; *Has male heir.*

His Highness Thakor Saheb Sir Bhagvatsinhji Sagramji, G.C.I.E., Thakor Saheb of Gondal; *Residence*—Gondal; *Caste*—Jadeja Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—58; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and University of Edinburgh; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Princes with a salute of 9 guns—

Captain (Hony.) His Highness Raj Saheb Sir Amarsinhji Banesinhji, K.C.I.E., Raj Saheb of Wankaner, His Highness has a personal salute of 11 guns; *Residence*—Wankaner; *Caste*—Jhala Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—45; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heirs.*

Thakor Saheb Bahadursinhji Nansinhji, Thakor Saheb of Palitana; *Residence*—Palitana; *Caste*—Gohel Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—24; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and Shrewsbury School, England

Thakor Saheb Daulatsinhji Harisinhji, Thakor Saheb of Dhrol; *Residence*—Dhrol; *Caste*—Jadeja Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—59; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

Thakor Saheb Sir Daulatsinhji Jasvatsinhji, K.C.I.E., Thakor Saheb of Limbdi; *Caste*—Jhala Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—55; *Educated*—Jamnagar High School; *Has male heirs.*

Thakor Saheb Sir Lakhajiraj Bavjiraj, K.C.I.E., Thakor Saheb of Rajkot; *Residence*—Rajkot; *Caste*—Jadeja Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—38; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heirs.*

Thakor Saheb Shri Jorawarsinhji Jasvatsinhji, Thakor Saheb of Wadhwan; *Residence*—Wadhwan; *Caste*—Jhala Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—24; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heirs.*

Area—20,882 square miles; *Population (1921)*—2,542,535; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Over Rs. 3 crores; *Tribute to British Government, His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda and Junagad Zortalbi*—Rs. 10¾ lakhs; *Military force*, 1,229; *Manufactures*—Silk, gold and silver lace, carpets, copper and brass ware, etc.

From last year the two-prant system has been introduced as a temporary measure, the divisions being known as Western Kathiawar States and Eastern Kathiawar States. These two divisions consist of 187 separate States, Talukas and Estates, jurisdiction being exercised by 74 Chiefs and Talukdars. Seven States are under Government administration owing to the minority of the Chiefs.

The average rainfall during the year was much below normal and the lack of drinking water was severely felt almost everywhere. The Agtar produce varied between 6 and 10 annas and the Pachhtar crop between 4 to 6 annas. Wages remained at a high level and the demand for labour was greater than the supply.

The principal items of expenditure were Police 20⅓ lakhs (the total strength of the States and Agency Police being 8,532), Prisons Rs. 1½ lakhs, Public Works Rs. 55½ lakhs and Medical Relief Rs. 7⅓ lakhs.

There were 1,954 schools with 154,588 pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 20⅓ lakhs.

3. PALANPUR AGENCY

Ruling Prince with a salute of 13 guns—

Captain His Highness Nawab Sir Tale Muhammad Khan, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., Divan of Palanpur; *Residence*—Palanpur; *Tribe and religion*—Lohani Pathan, Musalman; *Age*—41; *Educated* privately; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Prince with a salute of 11 guns—

His Highness Jalaluddin Khan Bismilla Khan, Nawab of Radhanpur; *Residence*—Radhanpur; *Tribe and religion*—Babi, Musulman; *Age*—35; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has a male heir.*

Area—6,393 square miles; *Population (1921)*—518,566; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 24 lakhs; *Tribute to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda*—Rs. 44,050; *Principal articles of production*—Wheat, rice, jowar, bajri, cotton, gram, rapeseeds, mug and castor oil seeds.

In addition to the two First Class States of Palanpur and Radhanpur, there is one Third Class State—Tharad, one Fourth Class State—Wao and a large number of minor States and petty Talukas in the Agency.

The rainfall was insufficient, the maximum fall being 14·84 and minimum 5·90. The total outturn for the season was 3 to 4 annas for Kharif and Rabi crops.

The total expenditure amounted to over Rs. 18 lakhs, the principal item being Police Rs. 3⅓ lakhs (the total strength of the State and Agency Police being 1,094), Prisons Rs. 23,500, Public Works Rs. 2 lakhs and Medical Relief Rs. 49,000.

The total number of schools was 88 with a daily attendance of 3,815 children.

4. MAHI KANTHA

Ruling Prince with a salute of 15 guns—

His Highness Maharaja Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Daulatsinhji, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Idar; *Residence*—Himatnagar; *Caste*—Rathod Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—47; *Educated* at the Nobles' School at Jodhpur and the Mayo College at Amjere; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharana Shri Hamirsinhji Jasvatsinhji, Maharana of Danta; *Residence*—Danta; *Caste*—Parmar Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—55; *Educated* privately; *Has male heir.*

The Rao of Pol—

Rao Shri Hamirsinhji, Rao of Pol; *Residence*—Pol; *Caste*—Rathod Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—20; Educated—Scott College, Sadra.

Area—3,124 square miles; *Population (1921)*—450,478; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 20 lakhs; *Tribute to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda by Idar*—Rs. 30,340; *by small States and Talukas*—Rs. 91,328; *Principal articles of production*—Wheat, gram, cotton, bajri, jowari and all common grains, marble and chalk; *Manufactures*—Dyed cloth.

In addition to these three States, the Agency includes 49 small States and Talukas.

There was no recrudescence of the unrest among the Bhils of Idar, Danta and Pol referred to in last year's summary.

The rainfall was deficient and unseasonable. The outturn of the monsoon crop varied from 4 to 8 annas and that of the winter crop from 4 to 12 annas.

The total expenditure amounted to nearly Rs. 23 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. $3\frac{1}{5}$ lakhs (the total strength of the Police in the Agency being 1,308); Prisons Rs. 12,000; Public Works Rs. 1,88,000; and Medical Relief Rs. 52,000.

The total number of schools was 153 with 9,676 pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 72,500.

5. REWA KANTHA

Ruling Prince with a salute of 13 guns—

Captain (Honorary) His Highness Maharana Shri Vajayasinhji Chhatrasinhji, Maharaja of Rajpipla, His Highness has a personal salute of 15 guns; *Residence*—Nandod (Rajpipla), *Caste*—Gohel Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—34, *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Princes with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharaval Shri Natwarsinhji Fatehsinhji, Raja of Chhota Udepur; *Residence*—Chhota Udepur; *Caste*—Chavan Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—17; *Is being educated* at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Captain (Honorary) His Highness Maharaval Shri Sir Ranjitsinhji Mansinhji, K.C.S.I., Raja of Baria, His Highness has a personal salute of 11 guns; *Residence*—Baria; *Caste*—Kichi-Chavan Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—38; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

His Highness Maharana Shri Sir Vakhatsinhji Dalelsinhji, K.C.I.E., Raja of Lunavada, His Highness has a personal salute of 11 guns; *Residence*—Lunavada; *Caste*—Solanki Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—64; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

Nawab Shri Jamiatkhanji Manvarkhanji, Babi of Balasinor; *Residence*—Balasinor; *Tribe and religion*—Babi Pathan, Suni Musulman; *Age* 30;

Educated—Rajkumar College, Rajkot and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun ; *Has no heir.*

Maharana Shri Jorawarsinhji Pratapsinhji, Raja of Sant ; *Residence*—Sant ; *Caste*—Puwar Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—43, *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Area—4,956 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—753,299 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 60½ lakhs ; *Tribute to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda*—Rs. 1,30,801 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 24,382 ; *Military Force*—1,732 ; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, wheat, bajri, jowari, cotton, maize, gram, mhowra (flower and seed) and timber ; Akik (cornelian) stone in Rajpipla and Manganese in Chhota Udepur.

The Agency includes also 14 small States and 8 petty Estates.

The chief events were the visit of Their Excellencies Sir George and Lady Lloyd to Rajpipla in October 1923 and the death of Maharaval Shri Fatehsinhji Motisinhji, Raja of Chhota Udepur, on 29th August 1923. The estate of Vohora was handed over for management to Thakor Badharkhanji on his attaining majority on the 12th May 1923.

The rainfall at Chhota Udepur was scanty but its distribution was favourable and assisted the growth of crops. The want of rain in the latter part of the season was much felt and affected the yield of kharif crops. In Sant the monsoon was late, irregular and not well distributed. The outturn of kharif crops was 8 annas and the Rabi sowing was poor and the year was a lean one.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 61¼ lakhs.

The total number of schools was 253 and the number of pupils 16,774.

6. CAMBAY

Ruling Prince with a salute of 13 guns—

His Highness Nawab Mirza Hussain Yavar Khan Saheb Bahadur, Nawab of Cambay, *Tribe and religion*—Moghal, Shia Musulman ; *Age* 13. (The State is under administration.)

Area—350 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—71,715 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 9,11,142 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 21,924 ; *Military Force*—153 ; *Principal articles of production*—Jowari, bajri, kodra, rice, wheat, cotton, pulses, oil-seeds and tobacco ; *Manufactures*—Cotton and silk cloths, carpets, matches and articles of agate and cornelian stone.

The rains commenced late in the season, but while the prospects of a good year appeared to be in sight in July and in the beginning of August, the rains failed practically completely in September and October, with the result that the outturn of wheat and other late crops was very insignificant. Bajri and cotton also suffered much and the rice crop totally failed.

Water for irrigation was totally insufficient and at some places water supply for drinking purposes was inadequate.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 8½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 68,000 (the total strength of the Police being 221) ; Prisons Rs. 7,400 ; Public Works Rs. 2 lakhs ; and Medical Relief Rs. 23,000.

The total number of schools was 55 with an average attendance of 4,417. The expenditure on education was Rs. 74,000. Education at all the primary schools in the Cambay State has been made free and compulsory in 28 village schools.

II. South Gujarat

(SURAT AGENCY)

1. DHARAMPUR, BANSDA AND SACHIN

Ruling Princes with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharaṇa Shri Vijayadevji Mohandevji, Raja of Dharampur ; *Residence*—Dharampur ; *Caste*—Sisodia Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—40 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Maharaval Shri Indrasinhji Pratapsinhji, Raja of Bansda ; *Residence*—Bansda ; *Caste*—Solanki Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—37 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Major (Honorary) His Highness Nawab Sidi Ibrahim Muhammad Yakut Khan Mubazarat Daula Nasrat Jang Bahadur, Nawab of Sachin, His Highness the Nawab has a personal salute of 11 guns ; *Residence*—Sachin ; *Religion*—Suni Musulman ; *Age*—38 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, Mayo College, Ajmer and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun ; *Has male heir.*

Area—968 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—155,312 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 23,39,924 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 9,154 ; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli, gram, pulse, jowari, sugarcane, molasses ; *Manufactures*—Cotton cloth.

The rains were tardy and failed in September in the States of Dharampur and Sachin but timely and well distributed in Bansda.

The total expenditure was Rs. 26½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1 lakh (the total strength of the Police force being 418) ; Prisons Rs. 2,300 ; Public Works Rs. 2¼ lakhs ; and Medical Relief Rs. ½ a lakh.

The total number of schools was 67, the number of pupils 4,298 and the expenditure Rs. 67,000.

2. THE DANGS

Area—999 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—24,576 ; *Gross revenue including the subsidy of the Dangs Rajas*—Rs. 41,820.

A wild tract thickly covered with forest. The inhabitants belong almost entirely to the forest tribes, mostly Bhils. Teak and other timber are the most important products. With the exception of a little rice and pulse, the crops are confined to the inferior varieties of mountain grains.

The deficiency of rainfall in October considerably reduced the yield of Rabi crops which were in a fine condition till the end of September.

The principal item of expenditure was Public Works Rs. 18,000. As regards education the average number of pupils on roll was 317 with an average attendance of 243.

III. North Konkan

1. JAWHAR (THANA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns—

Second Lieutenant (Honorary) Raja Vikramshah Patangshah, Raja of Jawhar; *Caste*—Koli; *Age*—38; *Has male heir.*

Area—310 square miles; *Population (1921)*—49,662; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 5,75,413; *Tribute to British Government*—Nil; *Military Force*—Nil; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli, pulses and timber.

The State is populated mostly by hill tribes such as Kolis, Thakurs, Kathodis, etc. They are illiterate and backward and the Darbar is trying to improve their condition by the spread of education.

The rainfall was sufficient on the whole and the crops were fairly good.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 7⅓ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 14,000 (the total strength of the Police force being 70); Prisons Rs. 1,400; Public Works Rs. 69,000; and Medical Relief Rs. 7,500.

The total number of schools was 20 with a daily attendance of 403 children. Education is free in all these schools. The expenditure on education was Rs 12,500.

2. SURGANA (NASIK AGENCY)

Ruling Chief—

Prataprao Shankarrao Deshmukh; *Residence*—Surgana; *Caste*—Maratha (Pawar) Hindu; *Age*—43; *Educated* in the Surgana State School; *Has male heir.*

Area—360 square miles; *Population (1921)*—14,912; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 43,070; *Tribute to British Government*—Nil; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli and timber.

The State contains 61 villages of which 46 are Khalsa and 15 alienated.

The population consists chiefly of Konkani Kunbis and Kolis living in small groups of thatched and mud houses, whose chief occupation is agriculture carried on in the most primitive fashion. They are peaceful and law-abiding.

The season was not very prosperous owing to the cessation of rainfall during the latter part of the monsoon. The crops were fair, cattle were in good condition, fodder was ample and the water supply sufficient. The prices of grain and cloth have slightly decreased but have not reached their normal level.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 66,000, the principal items being Police Rs. 3,000 (the total strength of the Police being 20); Prisons Rs. 200; and Medical Relief Rs. 900.

There is only one primary school at Surgana with an attendance of 24 pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 340.

IV. South Konkan

1. JANJIRA (KOLABA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 11 guns and, within State limits, of 13 guns—His Highness Nawab Sidi Muhammad Khan Sidi Ahmed Khan; Nawab of Janjira; *Residence*—Murud, Janjira; *Tribe and religion*—Habshi, Suni Musulman; *Age*—10; Being educated at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Area—377 square miles; *Population (1921)*—98,530; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 7,62,000; *Military force*—244; *Articles of production*—Rice, nagli, cocoanut, betelnut, fish, bajri, jowari, cotton, hemp and sesamum.

During the Nawab's minority the State with the dependency of Jafrabad is being administered by his mother as Regent assisted by the State Dewan.

The monsoon was not entirely favourable, the outturn of the crops being from 8 to 12 annas.

The State had an import trade worth Rs. 24¼ lakhs and an export trade of Rs. 15½ lakhs. The Abkari revenue was Rs. 1¾ lakhs.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 10 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 34,000 (the total strength of the police force being 179); Prisons Rs. 2,600; Public Works Rs. 1¼ lakhs and Medical Relief Rs. 17,600.

The total number of schools was 78 with an average attendance of 2,793 pupils. The expenditure on education was Rs. 48,000.

There is an Anjuman-i-Islam Institution at Murud established with the object of encouraging and spreading education in the Muhammadan community.

2. SAVANTVADI (BELGAUM AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns and, within State limits, 11 guns—Captain (Hony.) His Highness Raje Bahadur Shrimant Khem Savant *alias* Bapu Saheb Bhonsle, Sar Desai of Savantvadi; *Residence*—Savantvadi; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—26.

Area—925 square miles; *Population (1921)*—206,440; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 6,81,030; *Military force*—Nil; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nachni, vari and cocoanuts; *Manufactures*—Khaskhas, gold-thread and beetle-wing embroidery, horn works, toys and other lacquered ware, etc.

(The Chief was invested with his powers on 29th November 1924, after an administration which for various causes had lasted 86 years.)

The rainfall was much less than last year. The outturn of rice and nachni was annas 11 and 7 respectively.

Unusual floods on the Tilari river in Banda Petha due to heavy rains in the middle of July caused damage to property and crops estimated at about Rs. 1 lakh.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 8 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 70,000 (the total strength of the police force being 323), Prisons Rs. 2,400, Public Works Rs. 77,000 and Medical Relief Rs. 41,000.

The total number of schools was 153 with 11,484 pupils. The expenditure on education was Rs. 76,000.

V. The Deccan

SATARA JAGHIRS

(SATARA AGENCY)

Ruling Chiefs—

Meherban Bhavanrao Shrinivasrao *alias* Bala Saheb, Pant Pratinidhi; *Residence*—Aundh; *Caste*—Deshastha Brahman, Hindu; *Age*—56; *Educated*—Bombay University; *Has male heirs.*

Second-Lieutenant (Hony.) Meherban Malojirao Mudhojirao *alias* Nana Saheb Naik Nimbalkar; *Residence*—Phaltan; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—27; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

(POONA AGENCY)

Meherban Raghunathrao Shankarrao *alias* Baba Saheb, Pant Sachiv; *Residence*—Bhor; *Caste*—Deshastha Brahman, Hindu; *Age*—45; *Educated* privately; *Has male heirs.*

(SHOLAPUR AGENCY)

Meherban Shrimant Vijayasinh Fatehsinh Raje Bhonsle; *Residence*—Akalkot; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—8; Being educated at Akalkot.

(BIJAPUR AGENCY)

Meherban Ramrao Amritrao *alias* Aba Saheb Daphle; *Residence*—Jath; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—39; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

Area—3,301 square miles; *Population (1921)*—402,169; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 20,08,794; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 26,439; *Military force*—266.

At Akalkot the season was, on the whole, fair but in the remaining States the rainfall was inadequate and ill-distributed and the season was generally unfavourable. At Phaltan the year was an exceptionally bad one, for both the Kharif and Rabi crops failed, while in the other States the outturn was below normal.

There was an epidemic of plague at Bhor and Akalkot.

Serious damage was caused by flood on the 17th July 1923 at Jambhulpada and a few adjoining villages in the Sudhagad Taluka in the Bhor State.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 26½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1 1/10 lakhs (the total strength of the police force being 552), Prisons Rs. 20,000; Public Works Rs. 4¾ lakhs, and Medical Relief Rs. 29,000.

The number of schools was 209 and the number of pupils 11,500. The expenditure on education was Rs. 1⅓ lakhs.

VI. Kolhapur and Southern Maratha Country States

1. KOLHAPUR

Ruling Prince with a salute of 19 guns—

His Highness Shri Sir Rajaram Chhatrapati Maharaj, Maharaja of Kolhapur; *Residence*—Kolhapur; *Caste*—Kshatriya, Maratha; *Age*—27; *Educated* in England and Ewing College, Allahabad.

Area—3,217 square miles; *Population (1921)*—833,726; *Tribute to British Government*—Nil; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 93,51,977; *Military force*—692; *Principal articles of production*—Jowari, rice, cotton, tobacco, sugarcane, groundnuts, etc.; *Manufactures*—Coarse cotton and woollen cloths, pottery and hardware.

The chief event during the year was the laying of the foundation stone of the Memorial of His late Highness Shri Sir Shahu Chhatrapati Maharaj. His Highness presided over the Maratha Educational Conference held at Belgaum in December 1923.

The season was unfavourable, the supply of water, fodder and food grains being inadequate in some parts of the State. The prices of staple food grains rose high and high wages continued during the year.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 94 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1 lakh (the total strength of the police force being 1,006); Prisons Rs. nearly half a lakh; Public Works Rs. 7 lakhs and Medical Relief Rs. 76,000.

The total number of schools was 630, the number of pupils 37,814 and the expenditure Rs. 3¾ lakhs. Education in all the Primary Schools in Kolhapur proper except in the capital has been made free and compulsory.

2. SOUTHERN MARATHA COUNTRY STATES

Area—3,032 square miles; *Population (1921)*—608,294; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 1,87,754; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 37,55,228.

The Southern Maratha Country States consist of the Mudhol, Sangli, Jamkhandi, Miraj (Senior), Miraj (Junior), Kurundwad (Senior), Kurundwad (Junior) and Ramdurg States. The Rulers of the first two States, who have salutes of 9 guns, are :—

1. *Mudhol*—Second-Lieutenant (Honorary) Meherban Sir Malojirao Venkatrao Raje Ghorpade *alias* Nana Saheb, K.C.I.E., Raja of Mudhol; *Age*—39.

2. *Sangli*—Lieutenant (Honorary) Meherban Sir Chintamanrao Dhundirao *alias* Appa Saheb Patwardhan, K.C.I.E., Chief of Sangli; *Age*—34.

The late Chief of Jamkhandi Meherban Captain Sir Parasharamrao *alias* Bhau Saheb Patwardhan, K.C.I.E., died on the 25th February 1924.

The annual rainfall was scanty and the season, on the whole, unsatisfactory. The supply of drinking water was inadequate.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 49¼ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 3 lakhs (the total strength of the Police force being 1,647); Prisons Rs. 42,000; Public Works Rs. 5¼ lakhs and Medical Relief Rs. 92,000.

The total number of schools was 439 with a daily attendance of 23,595. The expenditure on education was Rs. 3 lakhs.

3. SAVANUR (DHARWAR AGENCY)

Ruling Chief—Captain (Honorary) Meherban Abdul Majidkhan Dilerjang Bahadur, Nawab of Savanur; *Residence*—Savanur (Dharwar); *Tribe and religion*—Pathan, Musulman; *Age*—33; *Has male heir.*

Area—70 square miles; *Population (1921)*—16,830; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 1,63,917; *Principal articles of production*—Jowari, cotton, pan-leaves and butter; *Manufactures*—Coarse cloth and country blankets.

The population of the State consists mostly of agriculturists. Owing to deficient and belated rainfall the harvest in red soil lands turned out below the average. The harvesting of paddy and cotton crops was better, but the price of fodder was higher than last year.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1¾ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 9,400 (the total strength of the police force being 48); Prisons Rs. 1,000; Public Works Rs. 17,000 and Medical Relief Rs. 3,200.

The total number of schools was 15 and the expenditure Rs. 11,360.

VII. Sind

KHAIRPUR

Ruling Prince with a salute of 15 guns and, within State limits, of 17 guns—His Highness Mir Ali Nawaz Khan Talpur, Mir of Khairpur; *Residence*—Kot-Diji; *Tribe and religion*—Talpur, Baluch, Musulman; *Age*—40; *Educated*—Aitchison Chiefs' College, Lahore.

Area—6,050 square miles; *Population (1921)*—193,152; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 26,50,206; *Military force according to the reorganisation scheme*—352; *Principal articles of production*—Fuller's earth, carbonate of soda, cotton, wool, ghee, hides, tobacco and indigo; *Manufactures*—Cloth, leather, ivory work, metal work, cutlery, cotton, silk and woollen works, lacquer wood work, glazed pottery work and carpets.

The season was fair. The total area under cultivation was 188,400.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 28½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 76,000 (the total strength of the police force being 288); Prisons Rs. 16,000; Public Works about Rs. 3 lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. 42,000.

The total number of schools was 138, with an average daily attendance of 4,753.

VIII. Aden

Area (including Perim)—80 square miles; *Population (1921)*—56,500; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 1,60,34,761.

The Political Resident at Aden administers the Settlement of Aden and the Island of Perim.

The Settlement of Aden comprises the following divisions; (1) The Peninsula and Isthmus or Aden proper, (2) Sheikh Othman and (3) Little Aden.

Lieutenant-General T. E. Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., held charge of the Residency for the whole year.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 92 lakhs, the principal items of Provincial Expenditure, apart from Military, Political etc., being Police Rs. 1¾ lakhs; Prisons Rs. 24,000 and Public Works Rs. 1 lakh.

The total number of Government schools was 5 and the number of pupils 485. The number of private schools was 36 and the number of pupils 1,930. The total expenditure on education was Rs. 16,800.

Condition of the People

The year on the whole was unfavourable as the rainfall was scanty, uneven and unseasonable. The supply of fodder, water and food grains was inadequate in some parts of the States. The prices of staple food grains increased and high wages continued during the year. There was no serious epidemic except at Bhor and Akalkot where plague made its appearance ; otherwise the health of the people was generally good.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

LAND RECORDS

THE functions of the Land Records Department are to provide statistics necessary for sound administration in all matters connected with the land, to reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in the Revenue and Civil Courts, to provide a Record of Rights for the protection of all who hold interests in land and lastly to simplify and cheapen periodical settlement operations.

The Land Records staff consists of a Director of Land Records, who is also Settlement Commissioner, four Superintendents of Land Records, District Inspectors and Circle Inspectors. The function of the Director of Land Records has been limited to inspection and advice, and he has been expressly excluded from control over the district establishments, which are subordinated to the Collectors.

A complete record of rights and interests in lands has been prepared for all unalienated villages throughout the Presidency and steps are being taken to prepare it for alienated villages also. The record has proved of very great value to the land revenue administration and to the public at large who were not slow in realising its importance as an authentic record of their titles.

City surveys form an important part of land records. Such surveys have now been introduced in Bombay City and in most of the important cities and towns in the Presidency. The progress of this work is being maintained. Suitable arrangements have also been made for the maintenance of city survey records after completion. In Bombay a special office, *viz.*, the Bombay City Survey and Land Records Office, does this work under the control of the Collector of Bombay.

On account of the close connection which necessarily exists between the record of rights and the deed registration which is the business of the Registration Department, the offices of the Director of Land Records and Inspector General of Registration are placed under the control of one officer who holds both appointments. This officer also exercises general control over the work of the Photozincographic Press at Poona.

REVENUE SURVEYS

The following extract from a Government Resolution reviewing the last progress report of the Survey Commissioner in 1901 shows the

nature and importance of the survey and the principles upon which Land Revenue assessment is based :—

" The value of the services rendered to the State by the Survey Department can hardly be exaggerated. At the time when the existing system was introduced, that is to say, about 60 years ago, Government were still confronted with the formidable problem of settling upon an equitable and workable basis the revenue demand for a vast number of small holdings. Several modes of settlement, based on pre-existing practice, had been tried, some of them, such as the Pringle settlement, had disastrously failed. Out of the prevailing confusion the principles of the existing system of survey settlement were evolved by the genius of Messrs. Wingate and Goldsmid, the authors of the celebrated Joint Report. Upon the principles laid down in that report has been founded a system of land tenure and assessment admirably adapted to the requirements of the widely varying conditions of the different parts of the Presidency. Under the system of measurement and classification by subordinate agency, subject to the test of technically trained and skilled supervising officers, methods were employed by which the area of every one of these small holdings could be measured, and the relative productive capacity of the soil estimated with scientific accuracy. By the system of grouping the relative economic and climatic advantages of different tracts were duly taken into account. In this manner the equitable distribution of the assessment was secured. The rates charged at the original settlement per acre of land occupied were in many instances extraordinarily low as compared with those previously levied.

" But as anticipated by the framers of the system the effect of the fixed tenure and of a certain and moderate assessment was at once seen in a rapid expansion of cultivation, which even at the low rates of assessment sanctioned yielded a large increase of revenue. The extensive areas of waste land existing at the time when the system was introduced have been employed largely for the growth of crops valuable for export purposes. Despite the check occasioned by many bad seasons and several disastrous famines and notwithstanding the heavy burden of indebtedness with which the agricultural population was saddled from the first, the value of land and the prosperity of the country, and with them the revenue have steadily increased. When the first leases of 30 years expired, it was found possible to increase the assessment by very substantial amount ; but the enhancements have, with rare exceptions, been borne without difficulty.

" The Survey Department has cost the State from first to last many lakhs of rupees. But the outlay has been repaid over and over again. One peculiar merit of the system deserves mention. By the division of the whole culturable area into what may be called units of assessment, the extension of cultivation was made to carry with it an increase of revenue,

while the revenue payer was placed in a position to ease his burden by giving up the occupation of lands unprofitable to him. The extensions of cultivation which have occurred have thus been profitable to the State no less than to the individual; whereas under a zemindari or kindred system, the State would have gained nothing however much cultivation had extended throughout the whole of 30 years' leases.

"But it has not been only as a revenue producing instrument that the Survey Department has proved its usefulness. The system to which the valuation of soil has been reduced is in many respects unique, and has resulted in a record of that valuation complete for innumerable small parcels of land. Probably no other province or country is possessed of any similar record. Its chief and immediate value for administrative purposes is that it enables field operations to be entirely dispensed with in all future settlements. The change of assessment can be decided for a whole tract on a review of its economic condition and revenue history and the people are saved from all the uncertainty and harassment consequent upon enquiry into the circumstances of individual holdings. The greatest credit attaches to the founders of this system, which has stood the test of experience and practical application in the most satisfactory manner. Developments have been introduced, but in no particular have the principles, and in very few have even the individual rules and directions laid down in the Joint Report been widely departed from."

Comparative valuations in the fertility of soils were expressed for convenience of handlings in parts of a rupee, 16 annas representing the valuation of a perfect field, from which deductions were made for faults, such as slope or irregularity of surface, excess of lime or moisture, or inferiority in the character or depth of the soil. This at least was the arrangement introduced under the joint rules. As time went on, experience showed the advisability of making allowances for advantages by making additions to the scale which carried the maximum above 16 annas. An example of this is the advantage that may be derived by land by the deposit on it of fine silt owing to flooding or from proximity to a stream on the bank of which a well can be dug from which the land can be irrigated.

THE RECORD OF RIGHTS

Two important improvements which have in recent years been introduced into the revenue administration of this Presidency may be described. The first is the **Record of Rights.** The Record prepared by the Survey Department was necessarily a fiscal record, the object of which was to show from whom the assessment was due and what that assessment was. It was not a record of rights or title. In course of time it was found that a Record of Right based on possession, if not on title,

was indispensable for the needs of the administration, more especially because the occupants in this Presidency, unlike tenants elsewhere, to whom in status they correspond, had an unrestricted right of transfer. The necessity of having such a record was pressed upon this Government by the Government of India and after a great deal of discussion regarding its suitability to this Presidency it was resolved in 1901 to prepare an initial record designed to show in accurate detail exactly how the land was held, because the revenue records gave only partial and in some respects misleading information on the point. The record was intended to show every right from that of a registered occupant to an annual tenant-at-will.

The experiment so started in select talukas was found to be successful, showing as it did that the preparation of a record was possible and would be welcomed by the people. With a view to give a legal character to the record, to compel persons acquiring new rights to give information of it to the revenue authorities, and to require the Civil Courts to insist on the production of extracts from the Record in civil suits tried by them which relate to land, it is laid down in the Land Revenue Code that a complete initial record showing all varieties of right in the land should be prepared by the Village Accountants, examined and checked by the officers of the Revenue and Land Records Departments and announced to the ryot. Provision has been made in the Act and the Rules under it that the Record after its completion and announcement should be accurately maintained by what is called the Mutation Register. The Record has now been prepared in all Government villages and some alienated villages of the Presidency, and is being maintained and kept up to date by Mutation Registers. Its preparation has placed at our disposal a large amount of important information regarding the various rights in land and the profits of cultivation, and has proved extremely useful. The whole system of village accounts is now based on the Record of Rights.

REMISSIONS OF REVENUE

The second important feature that has been imported into the revenue system of this Presidency is a regular system of suspensions and remissions of land revenue when the crops fall below a certain standard or when the water-supply on the irrigated lands fails. The assessment fixed under Survey Settlement is a fixed demand and represents the revenue payable on an average in a series of years, the original idea being that on an average the rayat saves in a good year sufficient to enable him to pay the assessment without borrowing in a bad year. Experience, however, showed that among the smaller landholders and in tracts subject to frequent vicissitudes of the season this idea was fallacious, and in 1906-07 a regular system of suspensions and remissions was introduced. The system authorises the Collector, when he has ascertained by local enquiries

that, owing to a partial or total failure or destruction of crops throughout any tract, suspension of the collection of land revenue is necessary, to grant suspensions according to a scale to all occupants, agriculturists and non-agriculturists alike, without enquiry into the circumstances of individuals. As regards remissions, the grant of them depends on the character of three seasons following that in which the assessment is suspended. Ordinarily suspended arrears which are more than three years old are to be remitted by the Collector. The remissions are to be granted to occupants cultivating their own holdings and also to non-cultivating occupants, provided that when land is cultivated by tenants, corresponding remission is granted by the superior holder or landlord to the inferior holder or tenant.

SYSTEM OF LAND TENURE

In the Bombay Presidency outside Sind the land revenue system is with few exceptions **ryotwari,** *i.e.*, a system of settlement with the rayats, or cultivators of small holdings whose revenue payments are fixed after careful measurement and classification of the land in their possession. The maximum and usual term of settlement is thirty years.

At the conclusion of the term of settlement the land revenue payable is liable to revision ; but the holder has the right of occupancy in perpetuity provided he pays the assessment as revised from time to time ; and this right is heritable and transferable. This is known as the full survey tenure and is that on which land is ordinarily held. The position of the occupant is thus more secure than it was before the advent of the British Government. In earlier times, it is true, the hereditary occupant or mirasdar held land on terms which precluded its forfeiture on failure to pay the revenue demand unless he absented himself for a term of over thirty years. But on the other hand he was liable to extra and arbitrary impositions and was responsible for the default of neighbouring mirasdars, while his lien on the land was also conditional on his reimbursing all arrears due and expenses incurred during default.

Moreover, before the days of the British Government land would not sell for more than two or three years' purchase and could not be mortgaged for more than half the gross yearly produce, whereas to-day the price realised for land varies from twenty-five to 100 or more times the assessment.

It should be noted, too, that it is laid down in the Land Revenue Code that " In revising assessments of land revenue regard shall be had to the value of land and, in the case of land used for the purposes of agriculture, to the profits of agriculture ; provided that if any improvement has been affected in any land during the currency of any previous settlement..... by or at the cost of the holder thereof, increase in the value of such land

or in the profit of cultivating the same due to the said improvement, shall not be taken into account in fixing the revised assessment."

A modification of the full survey tenure is known as the restricted tenure, which was introduced in 1901 and enables the Collector to grant the occupancy of land subject to the condition that the occupant must not alienate it without his permission.

Sind.—In Sind the ordinary tenure is the full survey tenure already described. The assessment is fixed by the method of " irrigational settlement " where assessment is based entirely on the mode of irrigation adopted which varies in different talukas and in different groups of villages. This has the merit of leaving it to the farmer to choose the best method of irrigation, season by season, according to the height of the river and the water-supply available. Under this system also the occupants are liable for the full assessment on each survey number when cultivated but the size of the numbers has been reduced so as to render it possible for each number to be cultivated with one pair of bullocks. The occupants are also permitted to retain their rights over all their lands when lying fallow but to prevent abuse of a privilege an assessment is charged at least once in five years. Practically assessment is now levied on cultivation only to the great benefit of the zamindars and of the revenue.

There are 55 talukas at present under Irrigational Settlements. In the desert of Thar Parkar (4 talukas) and in the extensive hilly tract of Karachi District adjoining Baluchistan special arrangements exist for levying a very light assessment, no fixed settlement having been made.

There are few tenant rights in existence in Sind. The smaller zamindars cultivate for themselves and the larger through yearly tenants who almost always pay the superior a proportion of the crop in cash for the privilege of cultivating, the zamindar being responsible for the assessment. The share paid varies from a quarter to a half according to the difficulty and expense of cultivating. The practice of leasing land on cash rent is slowly growing.

In the province of Sind Government have decided that the period of settlement should normally be twenty years except in areas where important projects are under consideration.

GUJARAT TALUKDARS' ACT

Under the provisions of various Acts including the Gujarat Talukdars' Act, the Court of Wards Act, Guardian and Wards Act, etc., Government is empowered to take over the management of estates whose owners by reason of minority, incapacity, etc., are not considered capable of looking after them. A large number of these are in the Ahmedabad District where in all there are 86 estates managed by the Collector who is the Talukdari Settlement Officer.

The revenue demand including past arrears was Rs. 5½ lakhs, out of which about Rs. 2¼ lakhs were recovered.

The total rent of the estates under management including arrears of past year was Rs. 2¾ lakhs, out of which Rs. 1¾ lakhs were collected and Rs. 10,912 written off, this sum includes the remissions granted to the estates' tenants and the allowances paid to the Talukdars for maintenance.

The work of survey and settlement in all Talukas has been completed and the mutation work has been begun.

There were 22 Kumars receiving education at the Talukdari Hostel at Dhandhuka at the close of the year as against 15 last year.

More than ¼ estates have been released from management during the year. Efforts are being made to withdraw management from many more estates and to ensure that Talukdars have the same facilities for credit as other landowners.

SIND INCUMBERED ESTATES ACT

The Sind Incumbered Estates Act, of 1881, was passed by the Government of India in order to amend the law providing for the relief of Jagirdars and Zamindars in Sind and this Act was further amended in 1896. The management of such estates in Sind is undertaken upon an application by the landholders and a Special Officer designated " Manager, Sind Incumbered Estates " has been appointed to supervise the management of these estates under the control of the Commissioner in Sind. During the last six years there has been a steady decrease in the number of estates under management, the number in 1920-21 being 143 against 278 in 1911-12 and 292 in 1915-16. The estates are leased to outsiders or to estate owners, but generally to the owners whenever this is possible.

The number of estates under the Manager, Incumbered Estates in Sind, at the commencement of the year was 119. Forty-five new estates were taken under management and 18 were released, leaving 146 under management at the close of the year. No amount was due to Government on account of takavi loans, while Rs. 17,125 were due on account of private loans. The revenue was Rs. 8¾ lakhs and the cost of management fell from 8·56 per cent. to 8·26 per cent.

THE COURT OF WARDS ACT

The Bombay Court of Wards Act was passed in 1905. Under this Act the Commissioners of Divisions are the Courts of Wards for the limits of their Divisions. With the sanction of Government, they assume superintendence of estates of landholders who on account of minority or physical or mental defect or infirmity are not qualified to manage the property and also on application by the landholders of estates that are heavily indebted. Suitable arrangements are also made for the education of minor wards.

ROUTINE MEASUREMENT WORK

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS

The main function of the Department is to maintain all survey and classification records up-to-date, and for this purpose to carry out the necessary field operations preliminary to incorporating changes in these records. It has further to organise and carry out rural and city surveys on an extensive scale and maintain them in a state of usefulness. Special surveys for private individuals or bodies such as relate to Inam villages, etc., and surveys on behalf of other departments of Government are also frequently undertaken. The supervision of the preparation and maintenance of the Record of Rights, and the periodical inspections of boundary marks also fall within the scope of the Department.

ROUTINE MEASUREMENT WORK

Northern Division.—Seventeen Cadastral and 6 District Surveyors were employed throughout the year. They measured 10,114 new hissas and 2,127 survey numbers on private application and 2,023 survey numbers belonging to Government. The total cost of the establishment was Rs. 23,000 and the fees earned including Government work amounted to nearly Rs. 25,000.

Central Division.—Forty-five Cadastral and 7 District Surveyors were employed throughout the year. They measured 15,704 new hissas and 5,254 survey numbers on private applications and 1,549 hissas and 2,901 survey numbers belonging to Government. The total cost of the establishment was just over Rs. 45,000, the fees earned including Government work amounting to about Rs. 400 less.

A temporary staff with a total strength of about 172 hands including Nimtandars supervised by the two Survey Mamlatdars was employed on original sub-division measurement work. In all about 85,000 subdivisions were measured.

Southern Division.—Twenty-three permanent and 18 temporary Cadastral and 6 District Surveyors were employed throughout the year. They measured 16,553 new hissas and 4,766 survey numbers on private application and 1,158 hissas and 3,558 survey numbers belonging to Government. The total cost of the establishment was Rs. 44,283 and fees earned including Government work were Rs. 41,550. Besides the above staff 5 parties of 48 measurers supervised by a Survey Mamlatdar measured 24,698 hissas in 147 villages of Karjat taluka in Kolaba and 3,296 hissas in the villages of Kadvai and Kutre in Ratnagiri district.

In the course of pot-hissa measurements mistakes in original survey records are sometimes detected which result in decreasing the assessment of the fields concerned. The total assessment so reduced during the year amounted to Rs. 1,283.

Sind.—The survey of the towns of Larkana and Jacobabad was completed.

The maintenance work of Shikarpur, Garhi Yasin, Sukkur and Rohri continued during the year, while that of Hyderabad was started in May 1924. In all 15,086 properties and 1,360 theodolite stations were reviewed.

Two Revenue Surveyors were deputed for about four weeks for the survey of the boundary between the British territory and the Cutch State over a distance of 46 miles.

Bombay Suburban Division.—There being no Cadastral Surveyor, ordinary measurement cases were done by the Revenue Circle Inspectors, while important and complicated cases of measurement and classification were done by the District Surveyor. During the year under report 88 measurement cases consisting of 219 survey numbers and 4 classification cases consisting of 65 survey numbers were disposed of. A new village called Parigha Khari was formed out of the lands and the water-way in the Mahim creek between Bandra and Mahim. This village was surveyed for the first time by the District Surveyor.

REVENUE SURVEYS

All important **revenue survey work** is done by the field parties ; it is either (*a*) work done at the cost of Government, or (*b*) paid work, of which the cost is recoverable. Government work had everywhere to be suspended on account of financial stringency.

Northern Division.—Five field party surveyors were employed in Gujarat during the year. Important surveys carried out included a survey of Boriavi-Vadtal road in Kaira district, survey for development purposes in 7 villages of Surat district, survey of transmission line of Tata Power Supply Company in 8 villages of North Salsette, and survey of inam village of Lonad in Bhivndi taluka. Land registers of roads in Surat and Broach districts were prepared at the cost of Public Works Department.

Central Division.—One field party (called the Inam Survey Party) consisting of 41 hands supervised by one Head Surveyor was employed on original and revision survey of Inam villages in the Central Division.

Southern Division.—Out of 23 villages of the Here Jaghir the survey of 16 villages was completed up to last year. Three more villages were completed this year. In four other villages the survey is in progress. One village of Shirsangi Desgat was also completed. The survey of all villages of this estate has now been completed. Three inam villages in Gokak taluka were completely surveyed for introduction of Record of Rights.

CITY SURVEYS

Northern Division.—City surveys of Ahmedabad, Modasa, Jambusar and Kaira were completed. Surveys in Surat, Prantij, Hansot, Bassein

and Halol were completed but enquiry is in progress. Twenty city surveys are under regular maintenance.

Central Division.—During the year, surveys of cities of Dharangaon, Chopda, Nawapur, Wai and Panchgani were completed and those of Trimbak, Malegaon, Yawal and Raver are in progress.

Twenty-one city surveys in all are under regular maintenance.

Southern Division.—City survey of Panwel was completed and enquiry is in progress. Surveys of Uran, Nargund, Indi, Roha and Alibag cities are in hand, while the Hill Station of Matheran is being surveyed. Twelve city surveys are under regular maintenance.

Bombay Suburban Division.—The maintenance surveyors reviewed during the year 1,184 properties and examined 430 theodolite stones.

General Remarks.—In cities where lands fetch high prices and where non-agricultural activity is great, the staff entertained for maintenance of such city surveys earns sufficient revenue to cover their cost. City survey operations are now being extended to small towns and it is noticed that in such cases they do not yield directly and immediately sufficient revenue to make the maintenance staff self-supporting.

To remedy this, at least partially, steps have been taken to transfer some of the maintenance work to Sub-registrars where they are available and have not got sufficient work of their own. In places where the maintenance work is not heavy and the Sub-registrars have got only light work, the whole of the maintenance work except the technical measurement and map correction work, which is to be done by the maintenance surveyor of the adjoining city survey, is entrusted to the Sub-registrars. In others where the city survey work is rather heavy or the Sub-registrar has not got sufficient leisure to look to the whole maintenance work in addition to his own proper work, he is directed only to index in the Property Register registered documents relating to city survey properties.

By this arrangement it is intended to utilise the spare time of the existing staff and to see that the maximum number of city surveys is maintained with as little extra staff as possible.

The scheme detailed above has been extended to towns as an experimental measure and will shortly be extended to others

REVISION SETTLEMENTS

Government passed orders on the proposals for the revision settlements of Gogha Mahal (Ahmedabad), Sindkheda taluka (West Khandesh) and Kopergaon taluka (Ahmednagar) and for the villages of Watwa (South Daskroi) and Wasna-Bujrag (Matar).

Orders were also issued on the settlement reports of the Inam villages of Dhekwad and Pathrai (West Khandesh), Umbarpada (Nasik), Shedani

(Poona) and Dhamni, Tung, Chikhalgothan, Brahmnal and Koulge (Satara). The settlement in 5 villages in Satara is provisional.

Two Suburban Schemes, Nos. 7 and 8, and the scheme about the Ambernath Industrial Area were received for survey correction, for which Kam-Jasti Patraks have been sanctioned and sent to the villages.

WASTE LANDS

The following table shows the area under cultivation in the Province :—

1923-24.

(In thousands of acres)

Division.	Total culturable area.	Occupied.	Balance culturable waste.
Northern Division	4,895	4,432	463
Central Division	14,349	13,945	404
Southern Division	7,833.	7,594	239
Sind	14,530	8,189	6,341
Bombay Suburban Division	31	25	6
Total ..	41,638	34,185	7,453

These figures show but a trifling variation over those of last year.

CHAPTER III

LAW AND JUSTICE

THE passing of the Government of India Act of 1919 and the inauguration of the Reforms radically changed the Procedure with regard to legislation. The power of making laws "for the peace and good government of the Bombay Presidency" is still vested in the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bombay. But that body, as now constituted, is very different, both in its composition and its powers from the old Council, which consisted of 47 members, of whom only 21 were elected, not as now directly but by local bodies or by special classes.

It now consists of 111 members. The four Members of the Executive Council are *ex-officio* members, and of the remaining 107, 86 are elected and 21 nominated. Of the nominated members not more than 18 may be officials, but the present number of officials is 13 only. The elected members are elected as follows :—

	Members.
General constituencies—	
Mahomedan Rural	22
Mahomedan Urban	5
Non-Mahomedan Rural	35
Non-Mahomedan Urban	11
European	2
Special constituencies—	
Land-holders	3
Commerce and Industry	7
Bombay University	1
Total ..	86

Of the members of the non-Mahomedan constituencies 7 must be Marathas.

All British subjects of either sex who are over the age of 21 years and possess the necessary property qualification are, subject to certain minor exceptions, entitled to vote in general constituencies. The Government of Bombay has also power to permit subjects of Indian States to be enrolled as electors. The property qualification is fixed by Rules under the Government of India Act and is based, in the case of land, upon the amount of land revenue, and in the case of houses upon the annual rental ; in each case tenants as well as landlords are qualified to vote. Besides these all

income tax payers and all retired soldiers of His Majesty's regular forces are enfranchised by the same Rules. A general election ordinarily takes place every three years. Before taking his seat every member must make an oath or affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown.

Legislative.—The extent of the power of the Council to make laws is defined by section 80A of the Government of India Act. Generally it may make laws for the peace and good government of the territories constituting the Presidency of Bombay, but certain bills cannot be introduced without the previous sanction of the Governor General. The most important of these are :—

(*a*) Bills imposing new taxes, except certain taxes specified in Rules made under the Act, such as taxes on non-agricultural land and on amusements, succession duties and judicial stamp duties;

(*b*) Bills affecting the public debt of India or any taxes the proceeds of which go to the Government of India ;

(*c*) Bills affecting the navy, army or air force ;

(*d*) Bills affecting the relations of Government with foreign princes or states ;

(*e*) Bills affecting or regulating a " central " subject.

Central subjects are subjects of vital importance or subjects on which it is desirable that policy should be uniform throughout India. Some of the most important are external relations, defence of India, shipping, railways, posts and telegraphs, currency, civil and criminal law, commerce, all sources of all-India revenue and the all-India services. Again under section 80-C of the Government of India Act a bill affecting the public revenue of the province of Bombay or imposing any charge upon it, cannot be introduced without the previous sanction of the Governor.

THE BUDGET

The annual Budget is presented to the Council during February. Previous to presentation it has been examined by the Finance Committee of the Council. This committee, which consists at present of 12 elected members, 4 nominated members and the Members of the Executive Council and Ministers, is not statutory but is constituted annually by motion made in the Council. The elected members are elected by the Council immediately after the motion is carried and its functions are advisory only.

The Budget is divided into voted and non-voted items. All items under the following heads are, under section 72 D of the Government of India Act, non-voted :

(*i*) contributions payable by the local government to the Governor-General in Council ;

(*ii*) interest and sinking fund charges on loans ;

(*iii*) expenditure of which the amount is prescribed by or under any law ;

(*iv*) salaries and pensions of persons appointed by or with the approval of His Majesty or by the Secretary of State in Council ; and

(*v*) salaries of judges of the High Court of the province and of the Advocate-General.

All other items are voted. But if the Governor certifies that any demand relating to a reserved subject, which has been either reduced or refused by vote of the Council, is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for that subject the reduction or refusal of the Council becomes void.

By Rule 33 of the Rules of the Legislative Council a Committee of Public Accounts is constituted to deal with the audit and appropriation accounts of the province. The committee consists of 12 members of whom 8 are elected by the non-official members of the Council, and the remainder nominated. The Finance Member is *ex-officio* chairman.

RESOLUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

After non-official bills and motions to amend Standing Orders have been disposed of, any member may during the remaining time allotted to non-official business move a resolution on a matter of public interest. Fifteen clear days' notice of such resolution must be given before moving.

Every resolution must be in the form of a recommendation to Government. The Governor may disallow a resolution on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest or that it is not primarily the concern of the local Government.

No resolution may be moved on any matter which affects the relations of Government with any foreign or Indian State, or relates to the internal administration of any Indian State, or is *sub-judice*.

Questions for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public concern may be asked provided that 10 clear days' notice of the question is given. A question may be disallowed on any of the grounds on which a resolution on the subject might have been disallowed, and also on certain other grounds of which the most important are that it must not contain a suggestion for particular action, nor ask for an opinion.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

Acts passed.—In the period between the 1st of April 1923 and the 31st March 1924 five Acts were passed by the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bombay and having received the assent of Their Excellencies the Governor and the Governor General became law.

The Acts were as follows :—

(1) Act No. VII of 1923 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Boiler Inspection Act, 1917) was passed with the object of realising from the owners of boilers the full cost of boiler inspection which had heretofore been borne by the general taxpayer, the expenditure on boiler inspection far exceeding the income derived from boiler inspection fees at the original rates.

(2) Act No. VIII of 1923 (An Act further to amend the law relating to public ferries in the Presidency of Bombay) permitting Government to transfer such public ferries as they might think fit to the district local boards or boards exercising authority over the district or districts in which such ferries were situated and to give such district local board or boards the power of management.

(3) Act No. IX of 1923 (An Act further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890) extended the exemption given by section 11 of Act No. XI of 1890 by providing that the abandonment or turning loose of animals which are dedicated in accordance with the religious rites or usages of any race or sect should not be an offence under Bombay Act XIII of 1922.

(4) Act No. X of 1923 [An Act further to amend the Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act, 1886] allowed a mother or a paternal grand-mother to succeed to watans according to the ordinary law of inheritance.

(5) Act No. XI of 1923 (An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to prostitution in the City of Bombay) was passed with a two-fold object, firstly, to give effect to certain of the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider means for remedying the evils of prostitution in Bombay; and secondly, to combine in one enactment the law relating to prostitution in the City of Bombay in a form which would admit of easy extension to such areas in the Presidency as might be deemed to require it. In the City of Bombay till the year 1920 the action of the Police had been confined mainly to the segregation of brothels and the prevention of soliciting. Subsequently, a section was added to the City of Bombay Police Act, 1902, the object of which was to prevent the detention of women and girls by force or otherwise in brothels. The necessity for a more comprehensive measure to deal with the evil was urged upon the Government from many quarters and accordingly Government appointed a committee to consider the question. The Committee in submitting their report recommended that the following acts should be made illegal :—

(1) the keeping of brothels;

(2) the procuring of women;

(3) the letting of houses for purposes of prostitution.

The Committee laid considerable stress on the necessity for the gradual enforcement of this policy of abolition. But the first and most urgent step in this programme was to eliminate the activities of the procurer. Accordingly the procuring and importation of women and the living on the earnings of such women were made offences under the Act; and substantial penalties were provided with a view to prevent the trapping of ignorant women and their exploitation in Bombay.

Bills.—There were in all 15 Government Bills introduced in the Legislative Council during the year under report. Of these, three were passed, and two are still awaiting the assent of the Governor General to become law. With regard to the remaining Bills three, relating to the amendment of the Civil Courts Act, the Town Planning Act and the Court Fees Act were thrown out, while two more were withdrawn by Government. Two lapsed on account of the dissolution of the Council, while the rest were deferred for consideration the next year.

There were also three private Bills. Mr. Kambli's Bill to amend the Hereditary Offices Act was passed and received the assent of His Excellency the Governor General. Sardar Mutalik withdrew his Bill to regulate the future transfer of Inams, while Mr. B. G. Pahalajani's motion for the first reading of the Bombay Civil Jurisdiction Bill was negatived by the Council. Notice was received from Mr. A. N. Surve for the introduction of a Bill to amend the District Police Act, but the Bill itself was not introduced during the year under report.

Budget.—The Budget was presented to the Council on the 19th February 1924 and 12 days were allotted for discussion of voting of demands for grants. A total cut of Rs. 16,52,000, inclusive of all specific items disallowed by the Legislative Council, was made in the budget. There were 27 divisions of which seven were carried against Government.

Standing Orders.—The Legislative Council passed two important amendments of Standing Orders, enabling members to send in questions and resolutions at any time provided that there was an interval of 10 and 15 clear days respectively, before they were asked or moved.

Resolutions.—Thirty resolutions were moved during the period under report. Of these 21 were carried; six were negatived; two were withdrawn; and one remained unfinished. The resolutions which were carried recommended to Government:—

(1) "To approve the Sukkur Barrage project as sanctioned by the Secretary of State and to commence the work as soon as possible." —Moved by the Honourable Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, Kt., LL.D.

(2) "This Council being of the opinion that the procedure followed by the Governor in Council in regard to special additional pensions under Article 475, Civil Service Regulations, is prejudicial and unfair to Indians, and being dissatisfied with the reasons given by the Government for

refusing such pension to Mr. J. K. N. Kabraji, late Collector of Surat, recommends to the Government that their decision in regard thereto be revised in view of the opinion of this Council that Mr. Kabraji, as Collector for nearly 24 years, has shown no less special efficiency and energy than European officers who have been given such additional special pensions."—Moved by Khan Bahadur D. B. Cooper, M.L.C.

(3) " That Government be pleased to make provision forthwith for giving the town of Shikarpur a first class sub-judge—a measure that has been, in view of its necessity and statistics obtained, since long administratively sanctioned."—Moved by Mr. B. G. Pahalajani, M.L.C.

(4) " That, in order to bring the educationally backward classes such as the Marathas and the allied castes, Lingayats, Mahomedans, depressed classes and the like, in a line with the advanced classes, greater facilities should be provided for them to get education of all kinds, and that in the recruitment to public services preference should be given to persons of the aforesaid classes possessing the necessary minimum educational qualification for the same."—Original resolution moved by Mr. C. M. Gandhi and amended by Messrs. A. N. Surve and S. T. Kambli.

(5) " That the untouchable classes be allowed to use all public watering places, wells and dharamsalas which are built and maintained out of public funds or are administered by bodies appointed by Government or created by statute, as well as public schools, courts, offices and dispensaries."—Original resolution moved by Mr. S. K. Bole and amended by Mr. A. N. Surve.

(6) " To declare the days on which general elections to the Legislative Council are held to be public holidays."—Moved by Mr. A. N. Surve, M.L.C.

(7) " That the orders recently issued modifying the practice of allowing one-third provincial grant-in-aid to aided institutions and abolishing the system of giving supplementary grants under the Grant-in-aid Code should be rescinded and the old practice restored."—Moved by Rao Bahadur R. R. Kale.

(8) " To approve the notifications and rules proposed to be issued under sections 3 and 7 of Act III of 1923 and to issue the said notifications and rules in the form in which they have been submitted to the Council."—Moved by the Honourable Khan Bahadur Shaikh Ghulam Hussain.

(9) " That in view of the very harsh nature of the Surgeon General's draft rules as regards the fees and charges to be levied from in-door and out-door patients for attendance and operations at dispensaries and hospitals, the orders passed by Government since August 1923 accepting such rules may be rescinded."—Moved by Mr. B. G. Pahalajani, M.L.C.

(10) " That the notification constituting the Surat district into three protected areas, *viz.*, the South Surat Area, the Surat Area and the Olpad Area under clause 3 of Cotton Transport Act (Act II of 1923) be cancelled

and that the whole of the Surat district be notified as one protected area."—Moved by Mr. H. B. Shivdasani, M.L.C.

(11) "That a committee consisting of official and non-official members of this Council elected by the Council with a non-official majority be appointed to consider the question of bringing the process of revising the land revenue assessment under closer regulation by statute as recommended by the Joint Committee appointed to consider the Government of India Bill, 1919, and to report on the nature and form of legislation that should be undertaken towards that end and that no revision be proceeded with and no new rates under any revised settlement be introduced till the said legislation is brought into effect."—Original resolution moved by Mr. R. G. Pradhan, M.L.C., and amended by Mr. B. G. Pahalajani, M.L.C.

(12) "That the scale of pay suggested by the honourable Messrs. Sathe and Paranjpye for teachers in primary schools in the report of the committee appointed by Government in the matter of the revision of their salaries be brought into force immediately."—Moved by Mr. G. B. Pradhan, M.L.C., to which the following amendment was proposed by Mr. A. N. Surve, M.L.C., and carried by the Legislative Council:

"That the consideration of the subject matter of this resolution be postponed *sine die*, and that a mixed committee with a non-official majority be appointed to report on the following issues, *viz.* :—

(1) Will the adoption of Sathe-Pranjpye scale referred to in the resolution retard the expansion of primary education?

(2) Will the local bodies be able to bear the financial burden consequent upon the adoption of that scale?

(3) Which areas call for special treatment in respect of dearness of the cost of living?"

(13) "That adequate compensation be given to families of those informants who have suffered injuries to life and property at the hands of the dacoits within recent times in Borsad and Anand talukas."—Moved by Mr. G. I. Patel, M.L.C.

(14) "That the revision survey settlement recently introduced in Sangola taluka be withdrawn."—Moved by Mr. V. R. Kothari, M.L.C.

(15) "That the salaries of the Presidency Magistrates other than the Chief Presidency Magistrate be fixed at Rs. 1,000—50—1,500."—Moved by Mr. V. A. Dabholkar, M.L.C.

(16) "That the Act No. XLII of 1923 (an Act to make provision for the better management of Wakf property and for ensuring the keeping and publication of proper accounts in respect of such properties) be made applicable to the Presidency of Bombay."—Moved by Khan Saheb A. M. Mansuri, M.L.C.

(17) "That all bills, press-notes, etc., which, at present, are translated and published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* in Marathi, Gujarati,

Kanarese and Sindhi should also be translated and published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* in Urdu, for the benefit of the Urdu speaking population of the presidency."—Moved by Moulvi Rafiuddin Ahmad, M.L.C.

(18) "That Hasrat Mohani be released immediately and unconditionally."—Moved by Mr. Punjabhai Thakersi, M.L.C.

(19) "That this House proceed to elect one representative on this Council to sit on each of the local advisory committees of the B.B. & C.I. Railway, the G.I.P. Railway and the branch advisory committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway."—Moved by the Honourable Mr. C. V. Mehta.

(20) "That the remaining period of supersession of the Surat municipality be remitted, and that the municipality be restored to the people of Surat forthwith "—Moved by Dr. M. K. Dixit, M.L.C.

(21) "That a mixed committee of official and non-official members of this Council, with a non-official majority, be appointed to consider the most suitable method or methods of fixing the anna valuation of crops."—Moved by Mr. N. E. Navle, M.L.C.

Of the above resolutions, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20 and 21 were accepted by Government; Nos. 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 18 were carried against the wishes of Government; and Nos. 1, 8 and 19 were Government resolutions.

In addition to the above resolutions of general interest five Motions of condolence and congratulation were passed.

During the period under report, the triennial term of the First Council under the "Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms" expired and the Council was dissolved on 22nd August 1923. Elections were held in November and the first meeting of the newly constituted Council took place on the 18th February 1924 in the Town Hall at Bombay.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The High Court, consisting of a Chief Justice and eight Puisne Judges, has both ordinary and extraordinary civil and criminal jurisdiction and exercises original and appellate functions. The appellate Judges of the High Court also supervise the administration of justice by Subordinate Civil and Criminal Courts. Ordinary original jurisdiction is exercised in matters both civil and criminal, which arise within the limits of the Town and Island of Bombay, but the High Court may in Civil cases remove and itself try any suit brought in any Court under its superintendence and, in criminal cases, exercise jurisdiction over all persons residing in any place whose Courts are subject to the superintendence of the High Court.

In the Mofussil, the administration of civil justice is, in addition to the High Court, and the Court of the Judicial Commissioner in Sind,

entrusted to four grades of Courts, those of District and Assistant Judges and of two classes of officers styled, respectively, First and Second Class Subordinate Judges. There are at present eighteen District Judges, four Joint Judges and ten Assistant Judges, though the number of Assistant Judges is frequently less than ten as the number required to act for District Judges on leave varies considerably. All these officers are members of the Indian Civil Service except three District Judges and seven Assistant Judges who belong to the Bombay Civil Service.

There are twenty-two First Class and one hundred and seven Second Class Subordinate Judges in the Presidency proper. In the province of Sind there are three First Class and thirteen Second Class Subordinate Judges.

The jurisdiction of a Subordinate Judge of the Second Class extends to all original suits and civil proceedings wherein the subject matter does not exceed five thousand rupees in value. He has no appellate powers.

The jurisdiction of a Subordinate Judge of the First Class extends to all original civil suits, except suits in which Government or any officer of Government in his official capacity is a party. An officer of this class may be (and some of them are) invested with appellate jurisdiction. A Subordinate Judge of the First Class may be invested with summary powers of a Small Causes Court Judge for the trial of suits not exceeding Rs. 1,000 in value and a Subordinate Judge of the Second Class with similar powers in suits up to Rs. 200. The High Court may invest any Subordinate Judge with the powers of a District Judge or District Court, to try certain cases.

An Assistant Judge may try such original suits of less than Rs. 10,000 in amount or value as the District Judge refers to him for decision.

The officer who presides over the principal Court of Original Civil Jurisdiction in each district is called the District Judge. He exercises a general control over all courts within his charge and refers for decision to the Assistant Judge such suits as he deems proper. He has also to arrange for the guardianship of the minors and lunatics, and the management of their property. The Judges of Surat and Poona are Judges of the Parsee Matrimonial Courts in those towns and the Judge of Poona, as Agent for the Sardars in the Deccan, decides, under a Regulation of 1827, cases in which certain gentlemen of high rank are interested.

In cases which do not exceed Rs. 5,000 in amount or value an appeal lies, on both matter of fact and of law, from the decree of an Assistant or Subordinate Judge to the Court of the District Judge, and from the latter's decision a second appeal lies to the High Court on points of law. An appeal from the decision of an Assistant or Subordinate Judge in cases exceeding Rs. 5,000 in value, and from the decision of the

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District Judge in all original suits, lies to the High Court. From the decision of the High Court a further appeal may be made to His Majesty in Council when the property in dispute is of the amount or value of Rs. 10,000 or upwards, but appeals are also allowed in cases of special importance or involving grave questions of law.

The Small Causes Court.—For the more easy recovery of small debts and demands, Courts invested with summary powers have been established in the City of Bombay and in Ahmedabad, Nadiad, Poona, and Karachi. The Judges of the mofussil Small Causes Courts have jurisdiction in money suits within the towns where the Courts are situated up to Rs. 500 in value and their decisions are final, save in so far as they are subject to reference on points of law to the High Court or to the supervision of the High Court in its extraordinary jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of these Courts may be extended to Rs. 1,000 and they can also be invested with appellate jurisdiction. The Presidency Small Causes Court has cognisance in suits not exceeding Rs. 2,000 in value arising within the Island of Bombay.

Criminal Courts.—District and Assistant Judges under the title of Sessions Judges and Assistant Sessions Judges exercise criminal jurisdiction. But the executive district officers who in addition to their revenue duties, are invested with magisterial powers, dispose of original criminal work to a great extent. There are under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, in addition to the High Court, four grades of Criminal Courts—those of the Magistrates of the Third, Second and First Class respectively and the Courts of Sessions. The different classes of Magistrates are invested with the following powers :—

Magistrates of the Third Class, with power to inflict imprisonment not exceeding one month and fine not exceeding fifty rupees ;

Magistrates of the Second Class with power to inflict imprisonment not exceeding six months and fine not exceeding two hundred rupees ;

Magistrates of the First Class with power to inflict imprisonment not exceeding two years and fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

Magistrates of the First Class may also pass sentences of whipping.

In addition to the Stipendiary Magistrates there are several Honorary and Special Magistrates and Benches of Honorary Magistrates in the mofussil and Benches of Honorary Presidency Magistrates at the Presidency town to relieve the Stipendiary Magistrates.

Under the general title of Courts of Sessions three grades of officers are included, the Sessions Judge, who is the District Judge, the Additional Sessions Judge, who is the Assistant Judge with full powers and the Assistant Sessions Judge who is the Assistant Judge.

The Sessions Judge is empowered to try any offence, and to pass upon any offender any sentence authorised by law, subject, in the case of a capital sentence, to confirmation by the High Court.

An appeal against sentences of transportation for any term, or imprisonment for more than four years passed by an Assistant Sessions Judge lies to the High Court. Against all other sentences an appeal lies to the Court of Sessions, while in no case can the sentence of an Assistant Sessions Judge exceed imprisonment or transportation for seven years..

CIVIL JUSTICE

No fewer than 308,026 cases of all kinds were tried in the courts of the Presidency proper excluding Sind during the year.

The Bombay Judiciary exercises jurisdiction over an area of 77,275 square miles having a population of 15,859,502. The Judiciary consists of 9 High Court Judges, 15 District Judges, 9 Joint and Assistant Judges, 7 Small Cause Court Judges and 126 Sub-Judges.

The number of suits instituted in the year was nearly 148,000, the Bombay Small Causes Courts being responsible for 33,900. The aggregate value of the suits amounted to, Rs. 5,72,00,000, while the value of suits instituted in the Bombay Small Causes Court amounted nearly to Rs. 1,11,00,000. The suits below Rs. 500 numbered 85·9 per cent., those between Rs. 500 and 1,000, 7·3 per cent., between 1,000 and 5,000, 4·8 per cent. and above 5,000, 5 per cent. Suits whose value cannot be estimated in money were 1·5 per cent.

Of the pending cases 6,170 had been pending more than a year, an increase of 106 on the figures of the previous year. The largest number of such cases was in Khandesh (1,071) followed by Poona (813), Ahmedabad (662), Belgaum (621) and Dharwar (614).

In the High Court 6,575 suits were instituted during the year and 6,814 were disposed of in the year, leaving a balance of 7,507.

Khandesh still continues to be the most litigious district having 30,866 original suits, 1,051 appeals and 23,839 execution proceedings, Ahmedabad following closely with 27,075 original suits, 1,103 appeals and 14,937 execution proceedings. Poona had 17,383 original suits, 698 appeals and 11,807 execution proceedings. Bombay City had 53,805 suits and 15,754 execution proceedings.

The total receipts of all the courts in the Presidency were Rs. 93,80,000 and the expenditure was Rs. 45,68,000.

The number of Civil Court decrees referred to Collectors for execution was 9,344 which with 8,231 from the previous year gave a total of 17,575 cases for disposal ; of these 10,023 were dealt with.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Criminal Courts in the Presidency are administered by the High Court and Sessions Judges mentioned above together with 937 Magistrates and 21,298 Police Patels, the latter exercising a very limited jurisdiction.

Nearly 184,000 offences came before the courts during the year showing an increase of 15,000 over the previous year. Of these 45,000 were under the Indian Penal Code and 139,000 under Local and Special laws. Over 15,000 offences were reported under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 54,000 under the Bombay City Police Act, 31,000 under the Bombay City and District Municipal Acts.

Stipendiary Magistrates dealt with over 89,000 offences and Honorary and Bench Magistrates, with over 93,000.

The aggregate number of persons tried by the courts was 238,000. Of those 75,000 were acquitted or discharged and 153,000 convicted. Of those convicted 16,312 were sentenced to imprisonment, 123,872 to fine, 835 to whipping and 3,077 to give security for good behaviour. Of those sentenced to imprisonment, 6,279 received below 15 days, 7,675 below six months and 1,753 below two years.

271 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons for frivolous or vexatious complaints. 189 murders were tried during the year as against 223 in the previous year. These may be classified as follows :

From motives connected with women 58 ; of children for the sake of ornaments 6 ; for the sake of gain 37 ; arising out of other causes 88.

REGISTRATION

For purposes of registration the Presidency is divided into districts and sub-districts which correspond in the main to the Revenue Collectorates and talukas. The Collector is Registrar of the district and for every sub-district there is a Sub-Registrar who is subordinate to him. In some cases Joint Sub-Registrars are appointed in charge of heavily worked sub-districts and in others the talukas are sub-divided into two or more registration sub-districts. The working of the department is under the supervision of the Inspector General of Registration.

CONDITIONS OF TRADE

The steady decline—since 1920—in the number of registrations referred to last year continued during the year under report, for the total number of registrations declined from 303,697 to 289,766, *i.e.*, by 13,931, thus showing a decrease of 4·58 per cent. The decrease was shared by almost all the districts in the Presidency except Ahmedabad, Broach and Kaira. The increase in Broach was substantial and was ascribed by the District Registrar to the high price of cotton. The increase in the other two districts was insignificant. The decrease was most conspicuous in East Khandesh, Thana, Dharwar, Poona, Bijapur and West Khandesh. In East and West Khandesh and Bijapur it was attributed to an unfavourable season, in Poona to the unsettled conditions of the money market and

in Sind to the tightness of the money market. General depression in trade was the reason assigned for the decrease in the commercial centres of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Karachi.

Documents relating to immovable property which constitute 97·8 per cent. of the total number of registrations amounted to 283,500 as against 297,500 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of 14,000 or 4·69 per cent. Documents relating to movable property declined by 2·3 per cent., compulsory registrations by 13,733 or 4·7 per cent. and optional registrations by 217 or 2·7 per cent. Wills and authorities to adopt however increased by 124 or 7 per cent. The average value per document registered in Book I declined from Rs. 1,552·11 in 1922 to Rs. 1,418·05 in 1923.

The Income of the Department fell from Rs. 13,77,000 in 1922 to Rs. 12,77,000 during the year, a decrease of one lakh or 7·3 per cent.

The total expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 6,32,000 against Rs. 7,11,000 in the previous year, a decrease of nearly 79,000.

The year under review saw the extension to three more registration offices of the photo-copying system which was introduced in 1921. The system has been working successfully; and the photo copies are now more distinct and clear. A few complaints were received from Bombay solicitors regarding unstitching of deeds and every effort has been made to mitigate them. Government have sanctioned the gradual extension of photography to other offices.

The system of card indexing was introduced from the beginning of the year throughout the Presidency and it is working well.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

The continued depression of trade and the distaste displayed by the investing public for industrial investments again had the effect of keeping the number of new public Companies floated during the year below normal. Fifty-five new Companies were registered as compared with seventy-one in the preceding year and of these twenty-nine were public and twenty-six private. The public Companies had a nominal capital of Rs. 7,29,60,000 while the private ones had Rs. 1,20,81,000. Forty-seven Companies were dissolved during the year as against sixty-eight in the previous year.

The total number of Companies working at the close of the year was 867 of which 628 were public, 217 private share capital Companies and the remaining 22 were Companies limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. During the year under review twenty-four Companies, incorporated outside British India, established their places of business in this Presidency as compared with twenty in the preceding year.

During the year it was noticed that the provisions of the Indian Companies Act relating to Annual General Meetings and submission of Annual Returns were still misunderstood by many Private Companies.

They were labouring under the impression that they were exempt from holding Annual General Meetings and submitting annual returns. Severe warnings were given in such cases.

One Company in Ahmedabad failed to hold its Annual General Meeting in due time, to prepare and circulate its balance sheet and to submit its annual returns. Two directors were convicted and fined.

In the case of one company established outside British India which was clearly fraudulent, it was found impossible to take steps under the Companies Act but the responsible party was ultimately dealt with by prosecution under the Penal Code. Besides these prosecutions a number of prosecutions under the Companies Act were launched by a discontented shareholder in Bombay against certain Companies. In two cases the complaints were referred to the Registrar by the Presidency Magistrate for investigation. Speaking generally these prosecutions dealt with technical contraventions of the Act without *mala fides* and were not successful.

CHAPTER IV

POLICE AND CRIME

THE Police force consists of two distinct bodies, the stipendiary and the village police. The stipendiary force is divided into grades, the members of which beginning as Constables on a monthly pay of Rs. 19 in Southern Division, Rs. 20 in Northern and Central Divisions and Rs. 21 in Sind have the opportunity of becoming Head Constables, Sub-Inspectors, Inspectors and even Deputy Superintendents. In the mofussil—

the Sub-Inspector has charge of the Police Station,

the Inspector has charge of a Circle comprising several Police Stations or a large Town, and

an Assistant Superintendent of Police or a Deputy Superintendent has charge of a Sub-Division of a District.

The pay of a Sub-Inspector ranges from Rs. 75 to Rs. 160 and that of an Inspector from Rs. 180 to Rs. 300 per mensem. The whole staff of the Police Prosecuting Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors is now designated as "Police Prosecutors" and their pay ranges from Rs. 90 to Rs. 400 per mensem. The pay of a Deputy Superintendent of Police ranges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 700 per mensem.

It is not the purpose of Government to give the stipendiary police a regular military character, and a portion only are armed, and to them are allotted the duties of guarding jails and lock-ups and the escort of prisoners and treasure. The knowledge of drill required from them is not very elaborate. The more purely police functions are discharged equally by members of the armed and of the unarmed branches of the force.

The proportion of police to area and population of the different portions of the Presidency varies greatly, being determined by a consideration of the nature of the country, the density and character of the population, and the neighbourhood of Indian States.

In the Northern Division there is one policeman to every 2·66 square miles and to 729 inhabitants.

In the Central Division 1 to 5·58 square miles and to 833 inhabitants.

In the Southern Division 1 to 6·01 square miles and to 1,166 inhabitants.

In Sind 1 to 9·55 square miles and to 626 inhabitants. Of the total police force, excluding officers, 1,179 were mounted.

For the purpose of control in the Presidency proper the whole force is under the Inspector General of Police, who is assisted by three Deputy

Inspectors General of Police. Certain administrative powers have, however, been reserved to the Commissioners of Divisions.

The executive management of the police in each district is vested, under the general direction of the Magistrate of the District, in a Superintendent of Police, who is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent, and has in some cases one or more Assistant Superintendents under him.

Recruitment for the Indian (Imperial) Police Service, which was originally wholly made in England, is now made both in England and in India on the results of the competitive examinations held in both the countries. A certain percentage of appointments is also made by promotion from the Provincial Police Service. Probationary Assistant Superintendents of Police and Deputy Superintendents (direct nominees) are, on appointment, attached to the Central Police Training School, Nasik. Their course of training ordinarily extends from 18 months to two years. After completion of their training, during which they pass tests in law, languages, drill and equitation, these officers are posted to districts for active duty as Assistant and Deputy Superintendents under the District Superintendents.

The taluka which is the sub-division of a district for revenue purposes, is usually divided into two or more Police Stations and the Sub-Inspector in charge of a Police Station is quite independent of the Mamlatdar in his executive control of the police under him and answerable only to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent of Police. Under a Police Station there are one or more outposts according to the size, criminality and local conditions of the area forming the Station. These outposts are manned from the regular police force allotted to the Police Station under which they are situated. Outposts are in charge of head constables and head constables and constables have a number of villages assigned to them for patrol purposes.

Railway Police.—A special police organization exists in connection with the railways of this Presidency—the North-Western which traverses Sind, the B. B. &. C. I., the G. I. P. and the M. & S. M. Railways. The police employed along these lines of rail are under the supervision of three Superintendents. The Railway Police form a distinct body quite independent of the Police of the districts in which they serve, but their pay and prospects are identical with those of the District Police. Since the year 1919 the cost of the " Crime and Order Police " is wholly debited to the Provincial Revenues and that of the " Watch and Ward Staff " is borne by Railway Administrations.

Criminal Investigation Department.—In addition to the police attached to individual districts there exists a special organization for the detection of crime called the Criminal Investigation Department, which includes the Finger Print Bureau and is under the immediate control of

a Deputy Inspector General of Police. The Criminal Investigation Department, in co-operation with the Police of other provinces, is employed in the prevention of the spread of serious crime, in the investigation into crime having ramifications over several jurisdictions and in the pursuit of criminals. The Finger Print Bureau has been working satisfactorily since its establishment in 1901.

MOFUSSIL AND SIND POLICE

The year 1923 was, on the whole, a successful one from the Police point of view, conditions both economic and political being generally more favourable.

The total number of cognisable and non-cognisable offences reported during the year was 130,254, an increase of 10,057 cases under all Classes compared with 1922.

Cognisable offences are those in which the Police can arrest without a warrant, and therefore include the most serious offences. In non-cognisable cases the Police cannot arrest without a warrant.

Cognisable crimes reported to the Police under the Indian Penal Code, Classes I to V,* numbered 32,566, a reduction of 1,549. The total of all cognisable crime reported to the Police, Classes I to VI,* was 39,500, a decrease of 484 cases under all Classes as compared with 1922. The figures for 1923 were the lowest during the last five years.

The very marked decrease in reported cognisable crime noticed last year was, therefore, maintained in the year under report. The increase in cases under Class VI was mainly due to the large number of cases in various districts under the Public Conveyances Act and the Criminal Tribes Act.

In Kaira the number of reported cognisable crimes was the lowest on record since 1911 and was attributed to various causes :—

(1) the good monsoon of 1922;

(2) the capture of important and leading outlaws and their subsequent convictions;

(3) intensive road patrolling;

(4) successful prosecutions of known harbourers;

Class I.—Offences against the State, Tranquillity, Safety and Justice such as those relating to Army and Navy, Coin, Stamps, Currency Notes, etc.

Class II.—Connotes serious offences against the person, *i.e.*, murder, culpable homicide, rape, unnatural offence, kidnapping, hurt, grievous hurt, etc.

Class III.—Serious offences against person and property or against property only, *i.e.*, dacoity, robbery, mischief, house-breaking, house trespass, etc.

Class IV.—Minor offences against the person such as wrongful restraint, and confinement, rash act, compulsory labour.

Class V.—Minor offences against property, including theft, criminal breach of trust, cheating, receiving stolen property.

Class VI.—Offences under Special and Local Laws, against religion, etc.

(5) heavy reinforcements (in the Borsad taluka) of additional police during the last quarter of the year.

The last measure was most successful in suppressing and preventing crime and the district was more peaceful and orderly than it had been for years past.

The substantial decrease on all the railways was attributed especially to the extension of the system of rivetting and locking wagons. Intensive patrol, and the escorting of goods and parcel trains, also contributed to the result.

So far as the Presidency proper is concerned, the after effects of the Retrenchment scheme have not, so far, been productive of any marked increase in registered cognisable crime but, according to the Inspector General of Police, " it is a fair inference to say that the general effect of the Retrenchment has been a diminution in the number of reported offences and a feeling of insecurity in some parts owing to the Police being withdrawn ".

The fall in serious crime was most marked under " thefts " including cattle thefts which dropped from 14,367 to 13,281 a decrease of 1,086. Offences under house-breaking, dacoity and receiving stolen property also decreased considerably. There was, however, an increase in robbery, a slight increase in offences against the person and in murder and attempts at murder. Offences under ' receiving stolen property ' dropped by 93 cases, the decrease being attributed to the successful prosecution of gang cases and receivers in the last few years.

A table attached to the Report giving for 1922 the incidence of cognisable and serious crime per thousand of population for the ten Provinces of India shows that Burma with 4·15 is the most criminal province in India, and Madras with 1·15 the least criminal. Bombay (1·88) showed considerable improvement, with the result that it stood sixth instead of fourth during 1921. As regards serious crime, Bombay stands seventh as compared with fifth in 1921.

For the whole Presidency (including Sind) the incidence of total reported cognisable crime under the Indian Penal Code per thousand of population was 1·797. The Sind figures were more than double those of the Presidency proper: (3·592 as compared with 1·401). The same proportion holds good with regard to total serious crime. In the Presidency proper the Bombay Suburban District continued to be the most criminal (4·998), and Ratnagiri the least criminal (·313): in Sind the corresponding districts were, Karachi Head-Quarters (9·795), and Thar and Parkar (1·526).

The percentage of cases excluded as false or due to mistakes of law or of fact, to cases for disposal stood at 17·60. 1,422 or 3·06 were classified as maliciously false and 373 prosecutions were undertaken during the year. Convictions were secured in 56·7 of these cases.

Kaira District Police. Officers and men who participated in raids against outlaws Namdar Garbad and Kalya Abha.

Panch Mahals District—Recovering stolen property buried by dacoits. The men on the left of the picture armed with bows and arrows are the village Police Patil and his two Rhakwaldars.

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Concurrent with the decrease in the number of reported cases and cases for disposal there was a decrease of 1,905 in the number of undetected cases. This figure, the lowest for three years, was nearly 2,000 below the average annual figure. The percentage of undetected cases to cases disposed of was 37·29. In this connection the Inspector General urges the expansion in the Presidency of the Criminal Investigation Department and the establishment of a detective training institution.

The percentage of cases convicted to those tried was 84·93 as against 86 in the previous year under all Classes. The largest percentage of convictions was obtained in thefts and the lowest in murder, etc., the percentages being 91·22 and 72·03 respectively.

The total number of persons arrested by the Police during the year was 35,430. Inclusive of those concerned in cases pending from the previous year, the total number of persons for disposal was 42,248. Of these 865 were released without being brought to trial and 33,222 were tried during the year, of whom 20,804 were convicted, a percentage of 62·62.

The value of property stolen during the year 1923 was Rs. 21,88,000 of which Rs. 7,12,000 was recovered, a rise of over 8 per cent. as compared with the previous year, the percentages being 36·80 and 28·69. In over half of the cases in which property was stolen property was recovered.

Of the 20,804 persons convicted, 3,371 were identified as having been previously convicted and 991 were classified as habitual offenders.

The most gratifying success of the year from the Police point of view was the rounding up and destruction of the two dangerous dacoit bands—the "Miana" and "Mir Khan" gangs—in the North, and the sustained success of the Police in Gujarat in capturing and bringing to book the leading outlaws in Kaira and other districts, who had been at large for years. Details of these and other interesting cases dealt with by the Police and the Criminal Investigation Department, are given in the Annual Report.

The sanctioned strength of the Police in the Presidency, including Sind and Railways, was 1,059 officers and 21,871 men, the total cost being Rs. 1,25,67,000 against Rs. 1,23,96,000 in the previous year, the increase being largely accounted for by the reopening of the Police Training School at Nasik, additional Police in the Kaira District, expenditure on dacoit operations in North Gujarat, etc. The average cost per policeman increased from Rs. 517-2-7 to Rs. 526-3-6. The percentage of literate officers and men was 58·81.

BOMBAY CITY POLICE

In his annual report for 1923, the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, remarked "I am fortunate in being able to record another uneventful year. No undue strain was placed on the police as the result either of political

excitement or of industrial trouble. There were various events of political importance such as Council elections, hartal and procession in connection with the Kenya question, the Turkish Peace celebrations, the arrival of the Ali brothers after release from prison, some of which attracted large crowds. Nevertheless the orderliness and good temper of the crowds greatly lightened the police labours on these occasions."

There were a few strikes of short duration. The only one in which violence was exhibited was the lightning strike at the Matunga Workshops on December 11. Some policemen were injured but after the initial outbreak, which did not last long, there was no further disorder.

The patrol system was substituted in 1923 for the fixed post system as means of protection at night. Theoretically it is undoubtedly a better system although the figures of crime for the year showed that it did not effect any improvement in the volume of crime during the year. "One reason for this," said the Commissioner, "may be that we were several hundred men below strength throughout the year and were not able to put the number of men on patrol duty who should have been."

There was a further increase in the total number of cognisable and non-cognisable cases from 112,163 in 1922 to 122,086 in 1923. This was largely due to the increase in petty miscellaneous offences from 97,716, in 1922 to 107,770 in 1923. Prosecutions against hawkers and squatters for causing obstruction in public thoroughfares and prosecutions under the Bombay Public Conveyances Act were mainly responsible for the increase.

There was an increase of 69 in serious offences against the person and property. The number of murders rose from 30 to 38, while attempts at murder and culpable homicide rose from 13 to 25.

1,334 professional beggars were dealt with under the Bombay City Police Act of whom 81 were deported. The beggar nuisance showed no signs of abatement in spite of the number of mendicants prosecuted and deported.

The total value of property alleged to have been stolen in police cognisable cases amounted to Rs. 22,85,000 as compared with Rs. 22,79,000 the previous year. The total value of property recovered was Rs. 4,76,000, a recovery percentage of 20·85 as compared with 25·27 in 1922. "The recovery percentage is however not the only criterion by which the efficiency of the police should be judged" observes the Commissioner of Police, "because the non-recovery of property is due to a variety of causes."

With regard to preventive action taken by the police, 28 persons as against 50 in the previous year were placed before the magistracy under Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code. The number of cases put up was small but the results were good as out of 28 cases 24 convictions were obtained. "The hearing is however very protracted and it is doubtful whether the results attained are commensurate with the labour

expended in the preparation. On the other hand good use is made of Section 112 of the Police Act. The evidence in such cases is of a summary nature and the magistracy are not reluctant to inflict deterrent sentences. It is not therefore surprising that Chapter VIII cases do not find favour either with the magistrates or the police officers in charge of Sections. There is also little doubt that evidence for Chapter cases is not so easily procured in a big city as in the mofussil, for in the city there is not that knowledge of one's neighbours' affairs that is such a characteristic of village life."

During the year under review 1,609 motor cars, 292 cycles and 137 heavy motor vehicles were registered. The total number of motor vehicles running in the Bombay City was nearly 8,973. Accidents due to motor vehicles numbered 1,861 or 19 less than last year. There were 56 fatal motor vehicle accidents or 17 less than in the previous year, an improvement probably due to the better methods of traffic control which have been introduced into the city. In London with seven times the population of Bombay there were 560 fatal motor accidents in 1922, or ten times the number recorded in Bombay in 1923. In Calcutta which has much the same population as Bombay and a much bigger police force, there were 63 accidents in 1923 against 56 in this city.

Dealing with street accidents the Commissioner reports that there were 94 persons killed and 2,337 injured during 1923, as compared with 110 killed and 2,255 injured in the previous year.

The housing of the police is on its way to completion. Unfortunately there are a large number of vacancies in the Force but there is a considerable reduction in the number of resignations, 99 as compared with 166 in the previous year.

The population of the city according to the census of 1921 is 1,175,914 and the proportion of crime to population stands at 1 to 13·04 as compared with 1 to 14·31 in 1922 and 16·11 in 1921.

VILLAGE POLICE

Under the provisions of Bombay Act VIII of 1867 the village police are, subject to the control and direction of the Commissioner, administered by the different District Magistrates. It is their special duty to prevent crime and public nuisances and to detect and arrest offenders within village limits. They are not stipendiary, but receive perquisites from the inhabitants of the village or rent-free lands or small sums of money from Government. In each village the village police are under the charge of the police patil, who is often, but by no means always, the person performing the duties of revenue patil. His duties as police patil are to furnish the Magistrate of the district with any returns or information called for, and to keep him constantly informed as to the

state of crime and all matters connected with the village police and the health and general condition of the community in his village. Under a form of administration which preserves the village as the unit of collection in revenue matters the institution of village police naturally holds an important place.

There are no village police in Sind, but in their place village or taluka trackers (paggis) are employed.

The Village Police rendered special assistance in 540 cases in 1923. In all 421 village policemen were rewarded, 85 by grant of good service tickets, 9 by grant of swords and the remainder by money rewards amounting to Rs. 5,116.

On the other hand, as the Commissioner, Northern Division, remarks :—

"Complaints continue to be made about the inefficiency of the Village Police establishments, and are usually coupled with suggestions by Police officers that those establishments should be organised as a part of the regular police. The Commissioner regards this as an impossible and unworkable proposal. There is no doubt that the usefulness of the village agency has decreased, especially in places where they have become purely stipendiary servants remunerated only in cash. But the complaints are exaggerated and the degree of assistance which can be won from Village Police will in practice depend much on the tact and judgment and discretion of the investigating officer."

The duty of serving summonses under sections 68 and 160, Criminal Procedure Code, was entrusted to the Village Police in the districts of Ahmednagar, Dharwar and Belgaum as an experimental measure. The system has been in vogue for too short a time to express a definite opinion as to its success or failure. The retention of the system is, therefore, still under consideration.

ADEN POLICE

The total number of officers and men in the force was 320, of whom 12 were mounted. Only 95 were literate. The expenditure on the force was nearly Rs. 1¾ lakhs of which over Rs. one lakh was borne by Government and the remainder by the Aden Settlement and the Port Trust. Out of 345 persons concerned in 409 offences and sent up for trial 271 were convicted and 74 discharged. The value of property stolen during the year amounted to Rs. 33,373 of which property worth Rs. 12,592 was recovered. The conduct of the Police in general was fair ; 7 were dismissed, 5 reduced, 21 fined and 37 were given extra drill. The strength of the Harbour Police was 54 men of all ranks ; 205 persons were deported to Somaliland and 220 to the interior of Arabia at the expense of the Settlement ; 32 persons were deported

to India, Hodeida, Mokalla, Zanzibar and Medi at Government's expense.

GOVERNMENT MALE AND FEMALE WORKHOUSES

By the European Vagrancy Act of 1874 a person of European extraction (which does not include " those commonly known as Eurasians or East-Indians") found asking for alms or wandering about without any employment or visible means of subsistence is a "vagrant" and may be required by a police officer to appear before a Magistrate. If the latter thinks that the vagrant is not likely to obtain employment he sends him to a Government Workhouse known as Working Men's Hostel where he is kept. If the Magistrate is of opinion that the vagrant is likely to get employment in any other place in India he may at his discretion forward the vagrant to such a place.

If after a lapse of a reasonable time in a workhouse, no suitable employment is obtainable for the vagrant the local Government may cause him to be removed from British India at Government expense or may release him.

Penalties are provided by the Act for refusal to go before a Magistrate, for quitting the workhouse without leave, etc., two years' imprisonment being the maximum penalty for the latter offence.

The Government Male Workhouse which is now administered by the Salvation Army, which receives a grant from Government, deals with cases under this Act; destitute Europeans may go voluntarily to the King Edward's Home which is managed by the Salvation Army and also receives a grant from Government.

The total number of inmates during the year 1923 was 134. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 8,913 to Rs. 9,960.

Sixteen vagrants deserted the Workhouse during the year under report; of these 14 were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment and 2 were still at large at the end of the year.

The maximum period of confinement of any inmate in the Workhouse during the year under report was 170 days.

In the Female Workhouse no Vagrants remained at the close of the year 1922. During the year 1923 there was only one admission, a female who was afterwards declared lunatic and transferred to the Madras Mental Hospital.

Bombay Jails

There was no change in the number of Central, District, Special and Extramural Prisons during 1923, but the new Central Prison at Hindalgi (Belgaum) with accommodation for 940 prisoners will relieve the constant overcrowding at Bijapur District Prison, Yeravda Central Prison and other jails. A prison with accommodation for 365 is under construction in

Bombay for undertrial and short term prisoners and a scheme has been approved for a Central Prison at the Acetone Factory at Nasik which will accommodate 1,200 prisoners.

The total number of convicts admitted during the year was 25,133, of whom 996 were females. The daily average population was 9,729, compared with 10,546 in the previous year, the population at the end of the year being 12,788. Undertrial prisoners numbered 66,348 against 65,857 in 1922.

There were 49 juvenile prisoners below 16 years of age of whom 8 were females. To the Borstal Jail at Dharwar 211 boys were admitted during the year against 204 in 1922. In this jail the boys receive the ordinary elementary school training and great attention is paid to their moral education and physical development.

DISCIPLINE

The Jail report for 1923 suggests that there were signs of an increase of lawlessness in the prisons. This was particularly noticed at Yeravda Central Prison and, to a smaller extent, in Ahmedabad Central Prison, Bijapur District Prison and the Sind Convict Gang. The number of prison offences dealt with by the Courts was 85 as compared with 18 in 1922, while the offences dealt with by Prison Superintendents increased from 19,650 to 22,836. The punishments inflicted by the latter numbered 24,520 and consisted of warnings, penal diet, separate, cellular and solitary confinement, handcuffing and link fetters. Warnings formed 13·5 per cent. of the total number. The number of punishments inflicted at Yeravda showed a considerable increase of 2,436, the causes assigned being a larger average jail population, persistent short task, and breaches of jail discipline. There were in all 98 floggings, as compared with 36 in 1922, of which 54 were in Yeravda Central Prison. The increase was partly due to the mutinous conduct of the Mulshi Peta Prisoners in persistently refusing to work. Only 8 convicts escaped during the year and 5 of these were recaptured.

The total number of prisoners released under the remission system was 2,320 against 3,250 in 1922. This decrease was due to the fact that during 1922 an exceptionally large number of long term prisoners was released on the recommendation of the Prison Enquiry Committee. Special remissions, mainly for good and extra outturn of work and for good conduct, were awarded to 3,058 and 2,660 prisoners against 3,695 and 2,110 in the year 1922.

The system recommended by the Indian Jail Committee of promoting habituals to the grade of night watchmen to watch over habitual prisoners at night was introduced and found to work satisfactorily.

Chair making at Thana Special Prison.

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HEALTH AND DIET

The medical arrangements in the jails in the Presidency are that every Central, Special and District prison has a hospital inside the jail compound under the direct supervision of the Medical Officer. Special precautions are taken to safeguard the health of the prisoners. Prisoners are weighed fortnightly and anybody showing loss of weight is carefully examined and his diet changed according to the needs of the case. All new admissions of undertrials and convicts are inoculated against plague, if plague is prevalent in the district. Prophylactic quinine is given once or twice a week during the malarial season. Patients discharged from hospitals are admitted to a convalescent gang before being returned to duty. Special attention is given to teeth scaling in all the jails as it has been proved that this has a profound effect on the health of the prisoners.

The death rate per mille is 10·9, it was 14·5 in 1922, and is the lowest recorded in all the Presidencies in India.

The general diet is composed of conjee in the early morning before work commences. The morning meal, which is served at about 10 a. m., consists of two breads (made of jowari, bajree or wheat) and dall or curried vegetable. The evening meal issued at 4 p.m. consists of two breads (made of jowari, bajree or wheat) and dall or vegetable. On Sundays the meat eating prisoners get mutton in lieu of dall. Convict Overseers in all the jails (and monitors in the Dharwar Juvenile Jail) get wheat bread always and mutton on Wednesdays also. Rice eaters are given rice, in lieu of flour, on the recommendation of Medical Officers. Distribution of food is done on parade in proper measures, under the supervision of a responsible official.

After the breads are cooked, they are kept on fly-proof racks and removed in zinc tinned boxes or wooden trays at the time of distribution. Dall, curry or vegetable are brought in metal vessels and distributed to prisoners seated in two lines, the arrangements being such that low caste prisoners are fed separately. All food is cooked by high class Hindus, Brahmins having a separate place in the same enclosure. Prisoners unable to eat or digest the ordinary prison food are given modified diets, *viz.*, rice, dall without condiments, etc., under orders of the Medical Officer. Lime, chillies and carrot or mango pickles are prepared and issued to prisoners periodically.

INDUSTRIES

The daily average of prisoners sentenced to labour was 9,569. In addition to supplying labour outside the jails to the Public Works and Railway Departments convicts were employed upon grinding, cooking, conservancy, gardening, water pumping, repairs to jail buildings and other such work for jail use. The largest industrial centre is Yeravda Central Prison

where printing is the principal industry and employed 303 prisoners. This jail also manufactures cotton tape, woollen and cotton carpets, file strings, carpentry, blacksmith and tinsmith work, cane articles, cotton and woollen clothing, zinc pots and plates for the use of the prisoners. It has also a quinine factory. Similar articles are produced at other prisons, namely at Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Dhulia, Thana, etc. There is no machinery in any of the factories in the jails except the printing machinery at Yeravda. At every jail there is a sale room at the main gate where articles are sold to the public. The total number of prisoners employed on manufactures alone was 2,126.

The total cash earnings of jail industries amounted to Rs. 2,56,587, the average per head being about Rs. 78.

The gross expenditure on all jails decreased in the year under report by Rs. 3,20,800, the amount in 1923 being Rs. 18,36,000 as against Rs. 21,56,800 in 1922. The average cost per head was Rs. 151 as against Rs. 165 in 1922.

The Released Prisoners' Aid Society continued to do good work and helped 272 released prisoners during the year.

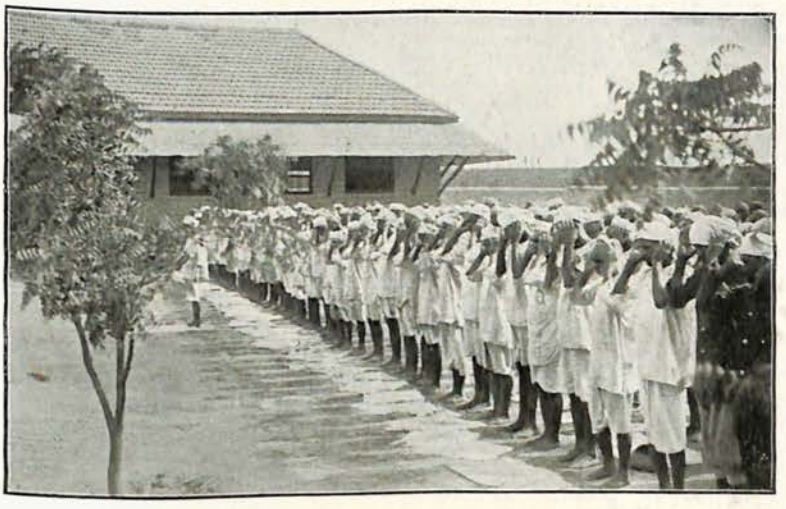
At some of the prisons religious and moral lectures were delivered by visitors. The Inspector-General of Prisons is of opinion that these lectures have a beneficent effect on the behaviour of prisoners and should be encouraged and regrets that more is not done by outside workers.

There were 191 official visitors, who paid 560 visits. Non-official visitors visited the jails 172 times.

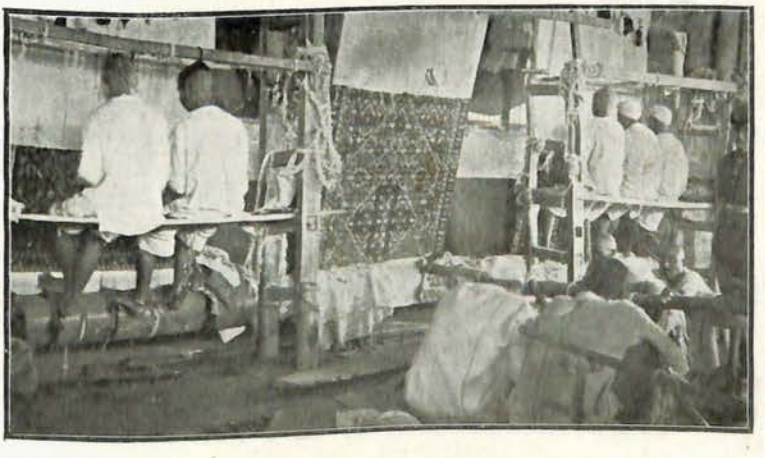
Criminal Tribes

"There has been steady progress in the Settlements during the year under report," observed the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer of Bombay in his Annual Report. "Nothing is perhaps so essential in a settlement as the preservation of a spirit of optimism. We have to make the settlers believe in themselves, and that they are able to take their place in the ranks of honourable citizens. For generations, it has been assumed by their fellowmen, and by themselves also that, as they belong to these special castes they must be capable only of committing offences, and incapable of honest toil. This tradition is being slowly broken down and the children in the schools and the younger men and women are of a different mould from their parents. Failures we have. Nevertheless to look back and to compare the condition of these people in former days and their present condition is the best tonic for any occasional feeling of despondency."

There was an increase of 799 in the settlement population, *i. e.*, the figure rose from 12,062 to 12,861. A new settlement was established during the year called the Nira Project Settlement for the control of the Hurs from Visapur settlement.



Karachi Prison : Muhammadan convicts at Id Prayers.



Karachi Prison : Carpet weaving.

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CRIMINAL TRIBES

Preparations are being made to carry forward the scheme for dealing with the Criminal Tribes of Bombay City. In brief the scheme is to make a survey of the castes notified as Criminal Tribes in the City (Bhamptas Kaikadis, Manggarudis and Waghiris) and to remove those having the worst criminal records, together with their dependants, to settlements established outside the city limits and to place the others on probation.

The problem of finding work for the settlers is gradually becoming less difficult as the younger generation takes the place of the older generation and thus the proportion of trained artisans increases and the number of persons fit only for unskilled labour decreases. Work in mills continues however to be the chief employment of the settlers, 1,438 of whom are engaged in spinning and weaving at Sholapur, 272 at Gadag, 479 at Hubli and 247 at Gokak Falls. In Hubli 106 men have found work in the railway workshops.

EDUCATION

Primary education is compulsory for all boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 years and for all children who work as half-timers in mills as long as they are half-timers. In the latter case their half-time attendance in the day school is compulsory until they reach the age of 15 years. Out of a total population of 12,861 in all settlements, 2,401 children attend the day schools.

MANUAL TRAINING

Manual training has been made an important feature of the training in all the larger settlement schools. There are now 361 boys receiving this training. Sholapur settlement which in previous years had rather lagged behind in this direction has now made an earnest effort to provide an efficient system of manual training for its settlement school. The spinning and weaving mills at Sholapur have given valuable co-operation and financial support towards this work. Among the boys and their parents in all settlements manual training is very popular as it is interesting work for the boys and the parents see the intimate connection between it and the next step in the training of the lads. The number of boys undergoing training in various trades are: 78 in Carpentry, 92 in Masonry, 7 in Tailoring, 22 in Agriculture, 3 in Smithy and 4 in Weaving.

Night schools have been established in all the larger settlements and there are at present 511 lads in night schools. Games are encouraged in every way possible and good playing grounds have been secured for most of the settlements. It is easier through organised games than in any other way to get into friendly touch with the lads and to help them towards higher ideals. Boy Scout work is being encouraged in the settlements. There are now 12 troops formed amongst the day school boys and 9 troops amongst the night school lads.

The settlement life is not irksome as is evident by the fact that the total number of absconders during the year was only 142 or about 1 per cent. The Co-operative Credit Societies established in the settlements have continued their steady expansion and have served a very useful purpose in providing loans for marriages and other expenses for settlers.

The special settlement of Bijapur, where the incorrigibles of the settlements are entertained, had a population of 143 at the close of the year. These were employed in weaving, gardening, and in the construction of buildings connected with the settlement. The Children's Homes at Bijapur, Hubli and Baramati have proved useful institutions and look after over 80 children. The Women's House at Hubli fulfils a very useful position as a Rescue Home for such women from the settlements as need this care. There are at present 17 occupants.

The total expenditure of all the settlements was Rs. 3,62,000.

A Panchayat amongst the Settlers.

Bamboo basket making : Women of Hubli Settlement.

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CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

THE most noticeable feature of the agricultural season of 1923-24 was the late breaking of the monsoon and its abrupt withdrawal much before the usual time. The result was that except in the Konkan, in the vicinity of the Western Ghats and in the irrigated areas, the outturn of crops—both *kharif* and *rabi*—fell far short of the average. In Sind, however, crop yields were, on the whole, satisfactory.

The *kharif* rains in the Deccan were up to the standard in the north but were considerably below it throughout the remaining portion and especially in Poona and Satara. In the Karnatak they were much better than the average at Belgaum and Dharwar and in the hilly portion but were very defective at Bijapur where they were slightly above half the average. In Gujarat these rains were very poor being about two-thirds of the normal at Surat and Godhra (Panch Mahals) and were worse still at Ahmedabad, Kaira and Broach, where they did not reach even half the usual amount. The Konkan, however, was more fortunate in its rainfall than any of the other divisions of the Presidency, and here the *kharif* rains were in excess of the average throughout. In Sind, the rainfall was higher than the average at Sukkur and Jacobabad but below normal elsewhere, being especially deficient at Nawabshah and Larkana.

The *rabi* rains were most disappointing throughout the Presidency. They were practically absent in the Konkan, Gujarat and Sind and amounted only to a few drops in the Deccan and Karnatak.

Area under cultivation.—In the Presidency proper the gross area cropped declined by 232,000 acres, the districts that mainly contributed to this decline being the whole of Gujarat (—127,000 acres), Ahmednagar (—71,000 acres), Poona (—109,000 acres), Satara (—77,000 acres) and Belgaum (—48,000 acres), due to unfavourable rains. Against this there was a rise in West Khandesh (44,000 acres), Nasik (90,000 acres), Bijapur (57,000 acres) and Dharwar (37,000 acres), due to the suitability of rains at sowing time. The area cropped more than once showed a decrease of 389,000 acres, the decrease being shared by all the districts,—thus reflecting the deficiency of the monsoon during the year. The net area cropped increased by 156,000 acres.

In Sind, the gross and net cropped areas rose by 59 and 88 thousand acres or by 1·4 and 2·2 per cent. respectively mostly in the south but the twice cropped area declined by about 30,000 areas, the decrease being shared by all the districts.

The assessed occupied area remained almost the same in the Presidency and in Sind but the unassessed cultivated area fell by 5·3 per cent. in the Presidency and rose by 11·4 per cent. in Sind.

(In thousands of acres)

Details.	Presidency proper.			Sind.		
	1922-23	1923-24	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.	1922-23	1923-24	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.
A. Cultivated Area.						
Gross area cropped ..	27,743	27,511	— 0·8	4,352	4,411	+ 1·4
Area cropped more than once ..	989	600	—39·3	427	398	— 6·8
Net area cropped ..	26,754	26,911	+ 0·6	3,925	4,013	+ 2·2
Current fallows ..	6,661	6,507	— 2·3	5,409	5,353	— 1·0
Assessed ..	33,282	33,292	..	8,832	8,807	— 0·3
Unassessed ..	133	126	— 5·3	502	559	+11·4
Total A ..	33,415	33,418	..	9,334	9,366	+ 0·3
B. Uncultivated Area.						
Available for cultivation—Culturable Waste ..	968	943	— 2·6	6,103	6,100	..
Not available for cultivation—Forest ..	8,559	8,553	— 0·1	729	739	+ 1·4
Not available for cultivation—Others .	5,771	5,800	+ 0·5	13,983	13,951	— 0·2
Total B ..	15,298	15,296	..	20,815	20,790	— 0·1
Grand Total ..	48,713	48,714	..	30,149	30,156	....

NATURE OF THE CROPS

Three-fourth of the cultivated area of the Presidency is devoted to growing food-stuffs, bajri, paddy, wheat and gram being the most important crops. Cotton is the largest non-food crop.

In the Presidency proper the area under food crops receded by 5·4 and 2·2 per cent. respectively, below the previous year and the normal. Jowar (chiefly *rabi*), wheat and gram showed a considerable drop in their cultivation owing to the deficiency of late rains. Among non-food crops the area under oilseeds showed a decline but that under tobacco, sugarcane and cotton considerably advanced, due to the incentive of high prices.

The Deccan can grow first class Crops. Crop of oats obtained at Manjri (Poona District) by the Agricultural Department.

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The net result was a decline of 232,000 acres in the total cropped area below that of last year.

In Sind, *jowar* and wheat under food crops and tobacco and oilseeds under non-food crops showed a decline in their area owing partly to the exigencies of the season and partly to the devotion of larger areas to the other more paying crops like paddy, sugarcane and cotton, the increase in area under which more than counter-balanced the decrease in the above crops (*i.e.*, *jowar*, wheat, tobacco and oilseeds).

Cropped Area

(In thousands of acres)

Crops.	Presidency proper.			Sind.		
	1922–23	1923–24	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—)	1922–23	1923–24	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—)
I. Food Crops.						
(a) Cereals and Pulses—						
Jowari	8,237	7,447	— 9·6	483	455	— 5·8
Bajri	4,018	4,350	+ 8·3	926	1,013	+ 9·4
Rice	1,886	1,811	— 2·2	1,173	1,190	+ 1·4
Wheat	1,526	1,131	—25·9	502	433	—13·7
Gram	586	422	—28·0	202	202	..
Others	3,305	3,331	+ 0·2	329	331	+ 0·6
Total, Cereals and Pulses..	19,558	18,492	— 5·4	3,615	3,624	+ 0·2
(b) Sugarcane ..	60	69	+15·0	3	4	+33·3
(c) * Other Food Crops ..	511	473	— 7·4	51	50	— 2·0
Total, Food Crops ..	20,129	19,034	— 5·4	3,669	3,678	+ 0·2

* These include fruits and vegetables and miscellaneous food-crops.

BOMBAY, 1923-24

(In thousands of acres)

Crops.	Presidency proper.			Sind.		
	1922-23	1923-24	Percentage. increase (+) or decrease (—)	1922-23	1923-24	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—)
II. Non-Food Crops.						
(*a*) Tobacco ..	95	99	+ 4·2	8	5	— 37·5
(*b*) Oil Seeds ..	997	966	— 1·1	294	243	— 17·3
(*c*) Cotton ..	3,709	4,547	+22·7	268	342	+ 27·6
(*d*) * Other Non-Food Crops ..	2,832	2,864	+ 1·1	113	143	+ 26·6
Total, Non-Food Crops ..	7,613	8,476	+11·3	683	733	+ 7·3
Total, Crops ..	27,742	27,510	— 0·8	4,352	4,411	+ 1·4

* These include condiments and spices, dyes, drugs and narcotics (excluding tobacco which has been separately noted), fodder and miscellaneous non-food crops.

Variations in the principal crops were as follows :—

Jowar and Bajri.—Owing to the almost complete failure of the late rains in most parts of the Presidency where *jowar* is grown, the area under this cereal fell by 790,000 acres, the decline in the three Karnatak districts alone being over 516,000 acres. But the decrease under *jowar* was partly made up by a net increase of 332,000 acres in the area under *bajri* due to favourable early rains. In Sind the area under *jowar* dropped slightly but that under *bajri* increased by 87,000 acres.

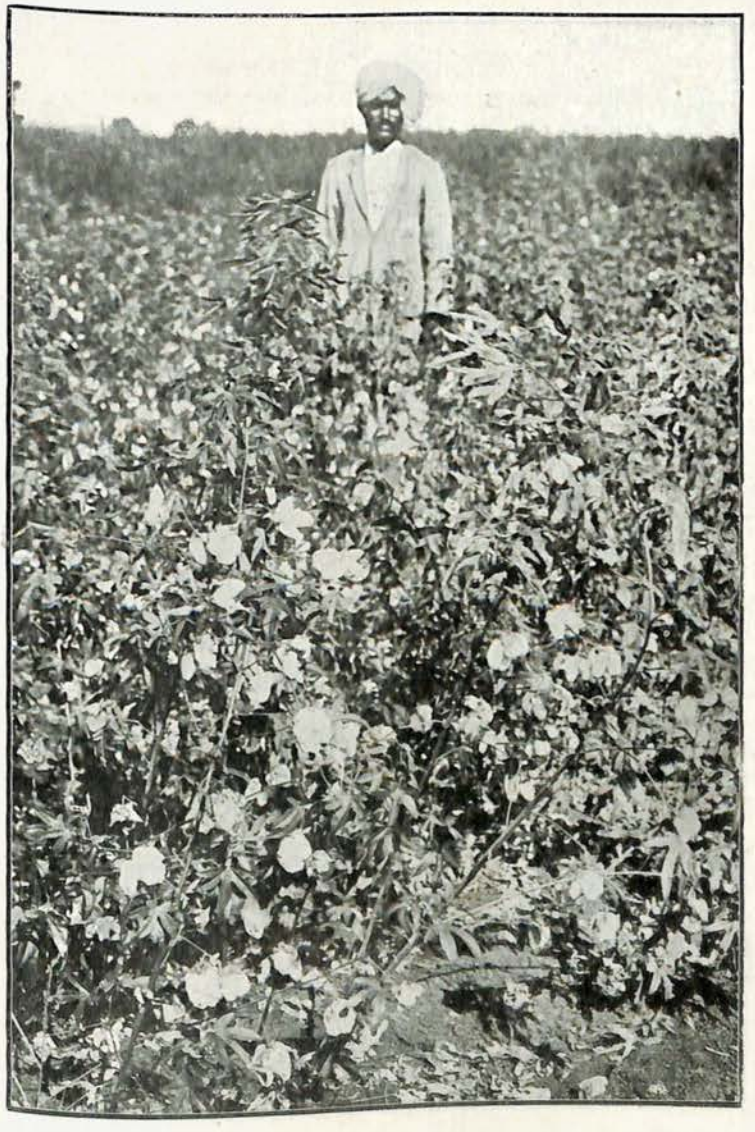
Wheat.—In the Presidency proper the area under this cereal dropped from 1,526,000 acres to 1,131,000 acres or nearly 26 per cent. below the previous year. In Sind there was a decrease of 69,000 acres.

Rice.—There was a decrease of 74,000 acres under this crop in the Presidency but in Sind an increase of 18,000 acres.

Other Cereals and Pulses.—The area under this heading was higher by 68,000 acres in the Presidency and by 4,000 acres in Sind.

Oilseeds.—There was a slight fall compared with the previous year, but an increase of 84,000 acres or 9·5 per cent. over the average ; while in Sind the area under this crop was 17·3 per cent. below the preceding year and nearly 32 per cent. below the normal.

Cotton.—Owing to the stimulus of high prices, the total area sown with cotton advanced to 4,547,000 acres in the Presidency or by 22·7 per cent. over the previous year and 17·8 per cent. over the normal. In



Cotton Crop from N. R. Cotton at Jalgaon.

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Sind the area rose to 342,000 acres, an increase of 27·6 per cent. as compared with the previous year and of 40·2 per cent. as compared with the average. To the total increase Gujarat contributed 263,000 acres and Karnatak 614,000 acres, though the Deccan showed a net decline of 40,000 acres.

Other Crops.—The area under sugarcane rose by 8,500 acres and the area under tobacco by about 5,000 acres, except in Sind where there was a decrease of about 2,500 acres. The fall under fruits and vegetables of 38,000 acres was general and was due to deficiency of water-supply.

Irrigated Area

The total area under irrigation in the Presidency proper (938,000 acres) showed a slight advance over the previous year. In Sind the area irrigated (3,070,000 acres) showed a decline of 2·6 per cent. below the previous year due to low inundation.

(In thousands of acres)

Details.	Presidency proper.			Sind.		
	1922–23	1923–24	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.	1922–23	1923–24	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.
A. Area Irrigated.						
Irrigated from Government canals ..	215	219	+ 1·9	2,990	2,897	— 3·1
„ from private canals.	47	53	+ 12·8	10	10	..
„ from wells ..	531	539	+ 1·5	36	48	+ 33
„ from tanks ..	96	87	— 9·4	..	1	·3
„ from other sources.	43	40	— 7·0	116	114	— 1·7
Total A—Area irrigated ..	932	938	+ 0·6	3,152	3,070	— 2·6
B. Crops Irrigated.						
Rice	150	129	+ 14·0	1,173	1,190	+ 1·5
Wheat	175	155	— 11·4	382	297	— 22·2
Barley	14	13	— 7·1	13	12	— 7·7
Jowari	209	199	— 4·8	434	391	— 9·9
Bajri	79	83	+ 5·1	510	477	— 6·5
Maize	29	31	+ 6·9	3	3	..
Other Cereals and Pulses..	89	111	+ 24·7	221	261	+ 18·1
Sugarcane	60	69	+ 15·0	4	4	..
Other Food Crops ..	126	116	— 7·9	66	55	— 16·7
Cotton	6	16	+ 166·7	267	342	+ 28·1
Other Non-food crops ..	128	152	+ 18·7	246	225	— 8·5
Total B—Crops irrigated..	1,065	1,074	+ 0·8	3,319	3,25	— 1·9

OUTTURN OF THE CROPS

Except in Bijapur and Broach, the yield of *bajri* and *kharif jowar* varied from one-half to three-fourth of the normal in the Presidency and Sind. Rice was almost normal in the Konkan and in Surat but was a failure in the other districts of Gujarat. Elsewhere in the Presidency and Sind its yield ranged between one-half and three-fourth of the normal. The yield of cotton was, generally speaking, much below the normal. As regards *rabi* crops, however, the yield of *jowar* was in many places much above the normal. The outturn of wheat was generally well below the normal.

While the area under food grains in the Presidency declined by 5·5 per cent. below the previous year, the total outturn fell by as much as 18·5 per cent. short of the yield of that year. In Sind, although the area advanced slightly, the yield receded by over 21 per cent.

CONDITION OF THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

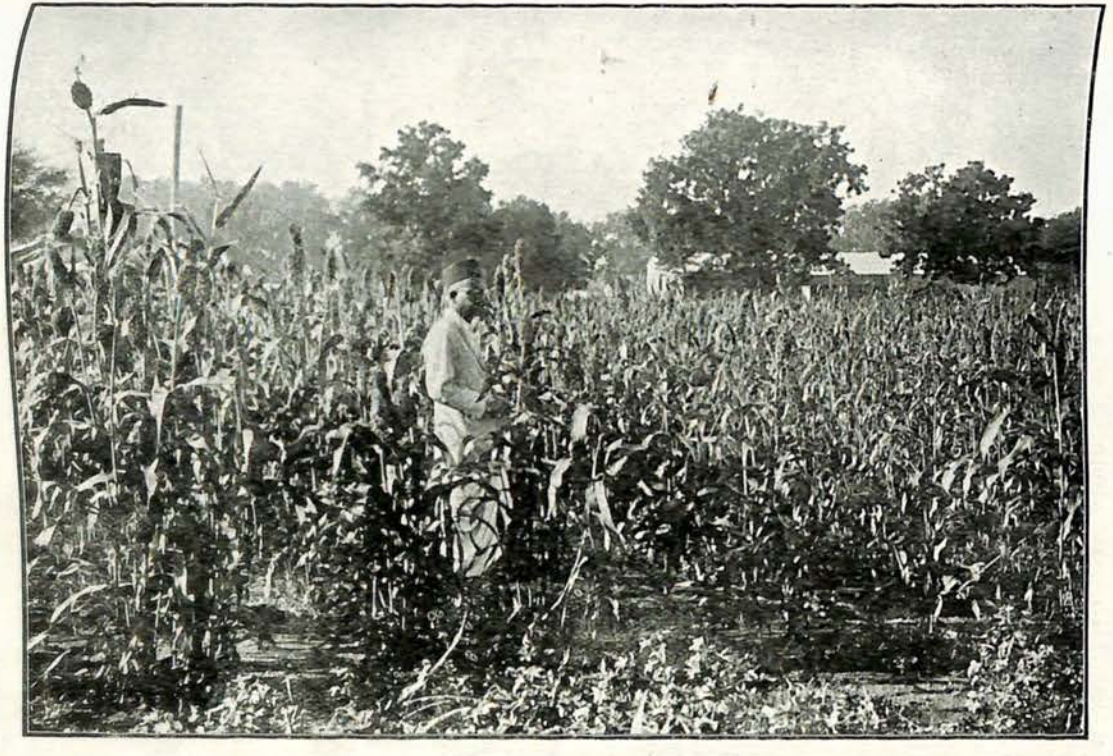
The result of the monsoon was that scarcity prevailed in most parts of the East Deccan and Karnatak and in North Gujarat and remissions and suspensions on a liberal scale were found necessary in many places to ameliorate the distress in those areas. There was also an acute fodder famine in those places and in the Sind Desert, and considerable quantities of grass had to be imported to save the cattle. The agriculturists in the non-cotton areas had a poor return for their labours. Wages continued high but prices, except for cotton, were generally stationary. In consequence, while the classes labouring for cash wages were fairly well off, the other classes of agricultural population suffered. The cultivators of sugarcane especially were very hard hit during the year, as the low prices of *gul* coupled with low yield and the increased cost of cultivation gave a severe blow to the cane industry.

The areas of economic advance were confined to the cotton tracts, for while the prices secured by this crop were, with the solitary exception of 1918, the highest on record, the yield also was better than might have been expected from the adverse seasonal conditions.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ITS APPLICATION

Some of the most important investigations dealing with improvement in the varieties of the staple crops now in progress, and the results so far obtained are as follows :—

Cotton.—Improved strains have been introduced into general cultivation in most of the cotton growing areas in the Presidency. In the Dharwar area, where there are approximately one and a half million acres under cotton, an improved strain of Kumpta has been sown on an



Effect of Dry Farming methods on *Jowar*. Left: methods recommended by Agricultural Department.
Right: ordinary methods.

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area of 75,000 acres, and the net gain to the cultivator is estimated at Rs. 5 per acre. Another improved strain sown on an area of 65,000 acres is estimated to give an increased gain of Rs. 13 per acre. In the Surat area a new strain introduced by the Department is extensively grown and in the area under the control of the Department for seed purposes the premium obtained for lint was Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per candy. Other varieties and hybrids are being raised and tested or are in process of multiplication for general use.

Rice.—Improved strains are being produced at research stations in Sind, the Konkan and the Karnatak.

Wheat.—Experiments are being undertaken in Sind and in the Deccan where a strain produced at Poona is being sent out for trial in various tracts and the results are promising. Some promising improved strains of *jowar* will be available for introduction next year.

Sugarcane.—The results obtained at the Central Research Station for this crop at Manjri near Poona show that several varieties have done very much better than the standard variety averaging from 40 to 50 per cent. more produce per acre.

Groundnuts.—Work on this crop has been very successful in Khandesh, where the area has risen from 4,100 acres in 1912-13 to 106,044 acres in 1922-23, largely owing to the introduction of the Spanish pea-nut variety by the Department of Agriculture.

In addition to the foregoing, there are a large number of special research schemes most of which are financed from outside sources including the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Sir Sassoon David Trust Fund. These schemes are concerned with the devising of means to check insect pests that attack cotton, the improvement of grass lands and the diseases of various other plants, the improvement of varieties, etc. This research work is directly under the control of a Committee of Agricultural Officers having a special knowledge of the subject and a whole time staff is allotted to each scheme, the time limit for each experiment being fixed and extended only if the progress of the research is considered satisfactory.

CHECKING OF PESTS AND BLIGHTS

The year 1923-24 in the Bombay Presidency was not a bad one for pests and blights. One of the most serious pests, the Jowar borer, was distinctly less prevalent than in recent years, and the other main crops suffered no more than usual. The cotton boll worm in Sind was particularly active and the bajri crop in the Deccan was widely attacked by a swarming caterpillar, creating great alarm in certain parts of the Poona and Satara Districts. Apart from these, the main crops had a year of less than average infestation.

Two fruit pests did great damage; particularly the *white fly* pest of orange and lime gardens in the increasing area devoted to these crops in Khandesh. This pest has now spread to almost all the Deccan areas and even to Gujarat, and it is believed that a method of dealing with it has been found. The other fruit pest was the *jassed* which attacked the mango flowers, and prevented the formation of fruit. It was specially serious in 1923 and as a result mangoes were few and dear in the season.

Efforts were made during the year to find a remedy against the rat pest in Lower Sind, where the damage done is very serious, chiefly to the rice crop, and a Special Officer was sent to make a study of the situation.

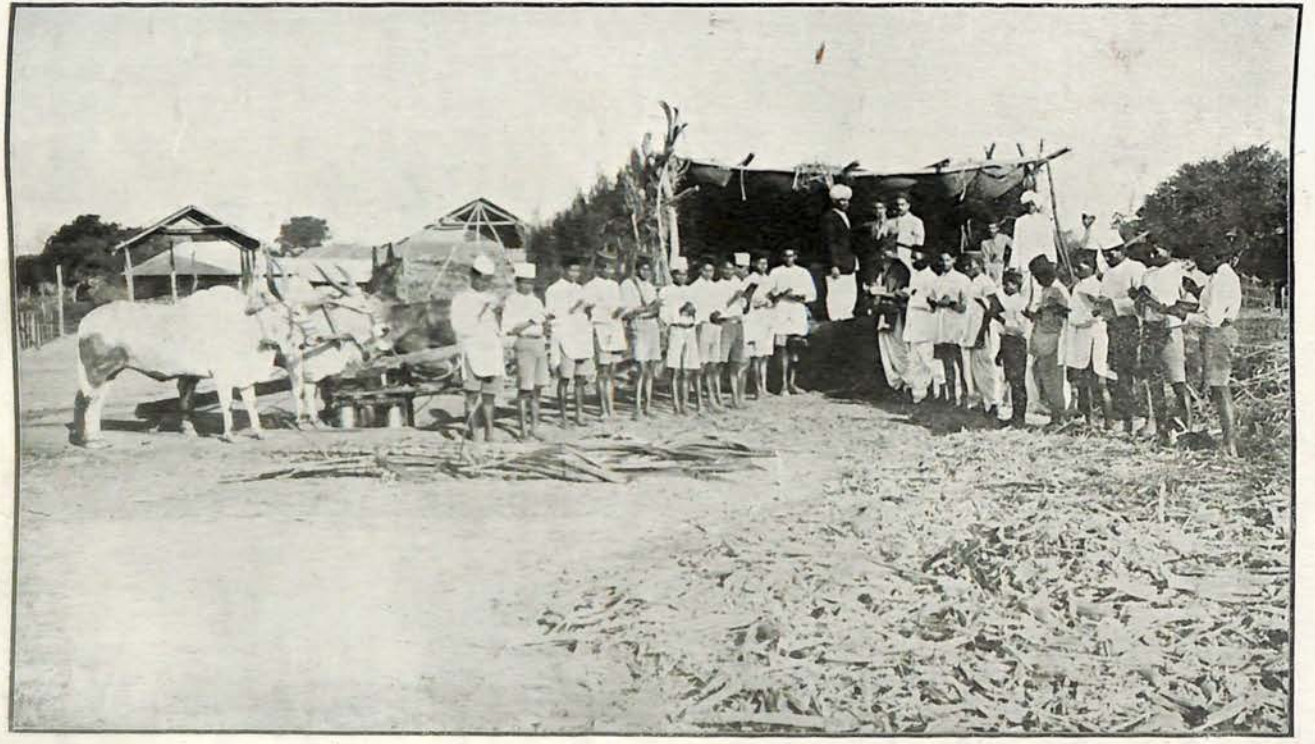
The preliminary reports he has sent in are decidedly hopeful.

Crop Production.—Perhaps the most interesting advance in cultural treatment has been made at Surat where experiments with ridge cultivation have been in progress for some years. The average results obtained during the past two years on the Surat farm show that the yield of cotton has been increased by 15 to 23 per cent. by simple ridging and inter-cultivation and by 41 per cent. by ridging followed by deep inter-cultivation with a dressing of ten tons of farmyard manure per acre. Similar results were obtained with jowar. Experiments, too, have been made with fertilisers for various crops with encouraging results.

Implements.—The Agricultural Engineering Department is now paying special attention to the design of implements. The iron ploughs continue to gain popularity and the Department has now put out 11,000 ploughs in the Dharwar area and this is only a small fraction of the total number in use. Special attention is being paid to the designing of a cheap type of iron plough for Sind and an improved type of winnowing machine for Khandesh. The horticultural branch of the Department is engaged on several promising lines of work, including figs, mangoes, juices of certain fruits, drying and canning of fruits and the supply of first class stock. In Sind there are great possibilities for dates, rasin grapes and lemons for juice.

Live Stock.—The Bombay Presidency is rich in live stock and there are at least half a dozen really good breeds of cattle within its boundaries. The Department possesses three cattle breeding farms for the Red Karachi breed, for the Kankrej breed and for the Amrit Mahal breed. In each case the object is to build up a first class herd of pure class cattle for the purpose of supplying pedigree bulls for distribution in the appropriate tracts, and a special feature is made of annual shows in the vicinity of the farms to stimulate interest in cattle breeding.

Improvements in Cattle.—The work of improvement of cattle is steadily progressing. Some private institutions have agreed to co-operate with Government in this matter and breeding of pure Gir cattle will soon be undertaken.



Loni Agricultural School (Poona District). Lesson in sugar-cane crushing and *gul* boiling.

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The Northcote Cattle Farm, Charodi, North Gujarat, continued its work of improving the Kankrej breed and the Farm put out 11 bulls and 3 buffalo-bulls during the year.

The Amrit Mahal breed on the Bankapur Farm is also making good progress. Ten bulls were put out in three years.

The Willingdon Cattle Farm at Malir in Sind breeds Sindhi and Thar Parkar cattle. One of the herd had a milk record of over 10,000 lbs. during lactation.

The Shirpur Agricultural Association (West Khandesh) has a fine herd of Tapti Khilari and is raising pedigree stock. It receives a subsidy from Government.

Three successful cattle shows were held during the year and Silo making and the use of the Burdizzo Castrator were demonstrated.

Demonstration and Propaganda.—The whole Presidency, a very few districts excepted, is now covered, though thinly, by an agricultural propaganda staff. The chief activities are demonstration of improved strains and varieties of staple crops upon the cultivators' own fields, artificial manures, implements, improved cultural methods and methods to combat diseases and insect pests. The Taluka Development Associations referred to in last year's report provide a local agency for introducing improvements and generally promoting agricultural advancement.

The chief direct services which the Department renders to the public are in connection with the supply of seeds, implements and manure, and the boring of wells, and the designing of pumping installations. There is a large organisation for the supply of seeds and in the Surat district 1¾ million pounds of seed was provided by the area under the control of the Department.

Agricultural Education.—The Poona Agricultural College is perhaps the best known Agricultural College in the east. This is due to the fact that the policy of this institution has been less to turn out practical farmers (for which purpose separate training is provided) than men fairly highly educated in the sciences associated with agriculture ; and in addition to this the facilities for studying the different branches of agriculture are perhaps wider than those available at similar institutions. Students are drawn from such distant parts as Burma and Ceylon, the United Provinces and Goa, the Nizam's Dominions and Mysore. The number of students on the roll during the year was 173.

The other educational work undertaken by the Department consists of the six Vernacular Agricultural Schools. In the year under report 17 masters completed their training and took over their duties in vernacular primary schools there to conduct the alternative course in the higher standards qualifying for the Vernacular Agricultural Final Examination.

The Expenditure on the Department was Rs. 15,12,000. The Receipts rose from Rs. 2,96,000 to Rs. 3,39,000.

ADVANCES TO CULTIVATORS

Northern Division.—The total amount advanced as takavi amounted to Rs. 1·35 lakh as against Rs. 11,700 during the previous year. Out of the total outstandings of 32·31 lakhs at the beginning of the year Rs. 6·33 lakhs were collected and Rs. 2·59 lakhs were suspended.

Central Division.—The amount advanced increased from Rs. 63,400 to Rs. 3·20 lakhs. The total outstanding was 70·70 lakhs while the collection was Rs. 22·26 lakhs.

Southern Division.—The amount advanced increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2·17 lakhs. The total outstanding was Rs. 20·19 lakhs. Collection amounted to Rs. 2·21 lakhs or 10·9 per cent. of the debt. In Bijapur the unauthorised arrears were heavy due to failure of the crops.

Five hundred and forty-five takavi works at Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar, Kanara and Ratnagiri were in progress.

Sind.—The amount advanced fell from Rs. 3·49 lakhs to Rs. ·84 lakh, a decrease of Rs. 2·65 lakhs, shared by all districts. The total outstandings amounted to Rs. 27·16 lakhs of which Rs. 12·47 lakhs were collected.

It should be noted that the figures for outstandings and collections do not mean that the amount was due for collection during the year. They represent the total amount of advances outstanding but not necessarily due for collection in the year under review.

NOTE ON THE WEATHER

1. The period, April and May 1923.—In the Peninsula and the Central Provinces, thunderstorms were fairly frequent in the first ten days of April, but during the rest of the month rainfall was confined to local showers in Mysore and south Madras. In May, on the other hand, thunderstorms were comparatively rare in the Peninsula, excluding Mysore, and in the central parts of the country; while on the Malabar coast the usual temporary advance of the monsoon which give rain there was almost entirely absent till the close of the month. Four disturbances which appeared from the west during the month caused abundant rain in north-west India. The total raintall of the period was in defect by 68 per cent. in Sind, 39 per cent. in Gujarat, 87 per cent. in the Konkan, and 28 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan.

II. The Monsoon period, June to September 1923.—The Arabian Sea monsoon set in on the west coast on the 11th June, a week behind time; it was very weak during the whole of June and failed to extend into the interior of the country and even on the west coast it gave rain chiefly in Malabar and the south Konkan. The beginning of July coincided with a strengthening of the Arabian Sea currents and an extension of monsoon rainfall into the interior of the country; aided by a depression which

Exhibit of Bombay Agricultural Department as prepared for Wembley Exhibition.

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advanced from Chota Nagpur to Rajputana the monsoon had extended into north-west India by the close of the first week. In the next few days there was very heavy rain on the west coast, and till the 23rd there was well distributed rain over the greater part of the country. In the last week the monsoon weakened in the Peninsula. During the month of August the Arabian Sea monsoon was strongly directed to north-west India at the expense of the Peninsula. Over the whole of north-west India excluding Gujarat it was unusually active during the greater part of the month and gave abundant rain. In the Peninsula the weakness that had set in at the close of July persisted throughout August, and the month's fall was in large defect. September was a striking contrast to August in that the Arabian Sea monsoon displayed its activity mainly in the Peninsula and the central parts of the country, and extended but seldom into north-west India. The total rainfall of the period was in excess in the Konkan by 12 per cent. and in defect in Gujarat by 54 per cent. and Sind by 11 per cent.; it was almost normal in the Bombay Deccan.

III. The retreating monsoon period, October to December 1923.—At the beginning of October, the monsoon under the influence of a depression which lay over the east of the Central Provinces caused widespread and locally heavy rain in the central parts of the country. With the weakening and disappearance of this depression, the monsoon retreated and the usual "north-east monsoon" set in in the south-east Madras on the 16th October. The monsoon revived in the south of the Peninsula on the 2nd November, and was fairly active till the 6th, when it weakened there owing to the appearance of unsettled weather in the south-east of the Bay. In the south the activity of the monsoon was mostly displayed in the extreme south-east of the Peninsula. The total rainfall of the period was in defect by 98 per cent. in Gujarat and 90 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan. Sind and the Konkan received no rainfall during the period.

IV. The period, January to March 1924.—In the south of the Peninsula there was a temporary revival of the monsoon in the first week of the month, but after that weather was practically dry. The western disturbances which appeared in February, especially those of the first fortnight, were very active and gave abundant rain over most of north-west India; the rest of the country had much drier weather than usual, no rain falling over the greater part of the Peninsula. Thunderstorms were very rare in March except in the south of the Peninsula, where they were associated with unusually heavy rain for the time of the year.

Rainfall during the period was in defect by 47 per cent. in Sind, 77 per cent. in Gujarat, 94 per cent. in the Konkan and 28 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan.

PRICES

Retail Prices.—There was a slight rise in the price of foodstuffs in the Presidency as compared with last year. The index number was highest in the Southern Division and lowest in Sind.

Northern Division.—The food index was much higher than last year but the index for food-grains was not materially different. Inadequate rains with partial failure of crops and a rise in prices were reported from most of the districts. Only Ahmedabad and Panch Mahals reported a downward tendency. The prices of rice and wheat were highest in Surat and Thana respectively. The price of ghee continued high in Broach.

Central Division.—The change in the general level of prices was not very appreciable as compared with last year, but variations in the prices of individual items were very considerable. High prices ruled in West Khandesh and the price of ghee actually went up from Rs. 80 to Rs. 106-10-8 per maund. In Satara cereals were sold at higher prices than in any other district in the Division. The price of milk was high in Poona.

Southern Division.—The level of prices as compared with July 1914 was the highest in the Southern Division. During the year under report, rice, wheat and jowari recorded a rise but the other food-grains registered a fall. In Bijapur an unfavourable season following years of scarcity caused a rise in prices. In Kanara there was a slight rise in the price of local rice owing to the damage caused to the crops by excessive rains; but the lower price of imported rice compensated for this rise. Betel-nut, pepper, cardamom and cocoanut fetched high prices. The price of salt was high in Ratnagiri owing to insufficient stocks. Fodder was dear in Belgaum, Dharwar and Bijapur. Rice and ghee were both dear in Bijapur.

Sind.—In Sind the food index remained at the same level as in the previous year. All the food-grains except Jowari and Bajri declined in price. A succession of good seasons in the Upper Sind Frontier had led to a fall in prices, but in the year under report the indifferent character of the inundation in the beginning of the season resulted in a rise. A good harvest was reported from Hyderabad but rice sold high owing to export. Large stocks of food-grains led to slightly lower prices in Nawabshah. Owing to the removal of the embargo on the exports of foodstuffs and the inadequacy of stocks, food-grain prices showed an upward tendency in Karachi. In Sukkur, Larkana, and Thar Parkar the price of foodstuffs decreased considerably. The fall in prices was not appreciable in Larkana.

Bombay City.—In Bombay City, there was a fall in the price of food-grains but the fall in the food index was not appreciable. The same

can be said of the working class cost of living index which in addition to food articles takes into account fuel, lighting, clothing and house rent.

The following table shows the index for working class families in each Division of the Presidency. The figures for the Presidency exclude those for Bombay City. The index numbers for March 1922 and March 1923 have been revised.

(July 1914 = 100)

Divisions.	Weighted index numbers*			
	July 1914	March 1922	March 1923	March 1924.
Northern Division	100	168	142	151
Central Division	100	158	142	143
Southern Division	100	155	145	152
Sind	100	185	139	139
Presidency (excluding Bombay City) ..	100	167	144	146
Bombay City	100	161	149	147

* Articles included :—Rice, wheat, jowari, bajri, gram, turdal, sugar, gul, tea, salt, beef, mutton, milk, ghee, potatoes, onions and cocoanut oil.

The variations in the prices of food-grains alone are given in the following table :—

(July 1914 = 100)

Divisions.	Unweighted index numbers*			
	July 1914	March 1922	March 1923	March 1924
Northern Division	100	165	125	126
Central Division	100	163	127	127
Southern Division	100	158	135	144
Sind	100	194	120	116
Presidency (excluding Bombay City) ..	100	171	125	128
Bombay City	100	165	131	122

* Food grains included :—Rice, wheat, jowari, bajri, gram and turdal.

Wholesale Prices.—A consideration of wholesale prices in Bombay City shows that food prices rose between September and December 1923 but fell heavily in March 1924, that non-food prices showed a tendency to decline up to August 1923 but increased steadily thereafter and that the general index number for wholesale prices declined up to August 1923, then rose until February 1924 and fell in the next month. Raw cotton prices reached their zenith in November 1923. Cotton manufactures fell up to August but subsequently rose higher than in March

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1923. The changes by groups in the index numbers of wholesale prices in Bombay are set out in the following table :—

(July 1914 = 100)

Groups.	March				Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent. in March 1924 as against March 1923.
	1921	1922	1923	1924	
Cereals	156	177	127	123	— 3
Pulses	139	166	93	84	— 10
Sugar	338	224	242	220	— 9
Other food	150	241	296	263	— 11
All food index number	189	198	179	165	— 8
Oilseeds	129	140	139	129	— 7
Raw cotton	108	174	213	244	+ 15
Cotton manufactures	256	251	227	238	+ 5
Other textiles	190	188	195	235	+ 21
Hides and skins	152	168	134	140	+ 4
Metals	246	192	187	171	— 9
Other raw and manufactured articles .	214	195	176	164	— 7
All non-food index number ..	193	193	183	190	+ 4
General Index Number	193	195	182	181	— 1

Broach cotton increased to Rs. 745 per bhar (24 maunds of 40 lbs. each) in January 1924 and decreased to Rs. 627 in March 1924. Seed cotton rose from Rs. 274 to Rs. 320 per bhar. The price of timber went down in the Thana District.

The following table shows the food, non-food and general index numbers of wholesale prices in Karachi :—

(July 1914 = 100)

Month and year.	Food.	Non-food.	General index number.
July 1914	100	100	100
March 1921	184	183	184
March 1922	203	162	179
March 1923	134	163	152
March 1924	124	166	149

Food prices fell up to July 1923, then rose up to February and again fell in March 1924. Non-food prices were more or less steady. The general index may be said to have followed the movement of the food index. Raw cotton prices were high in Sind due to small output and favourable foreign markets.

LABOUR AND WAGES

Labour in the Bombay Presidency may be said to have improved its material condition during the year 1923-1924. Wages were maintained at the same high levels as those of the previous year and in some cases there was a marked rise. The averages for the Presidency for all classes of general labour were slightly higher than in 1922-1923. The tendency of price movements was downward and, therefore, wages, as expressed in terms of purchasing power, showed a decided improvement. The season was unfavourable in several districts owing to scanty raintall in many tracts and this had a marked effect on the demand for agricultural labour in the districts of Broach, the Panch Mahals, Satara and Belgaum. Conditions in Bijapur bordered on actual famine. In the Eastern Mahals of the Panch Mahals the Bhils were in need of employment during the summer and the Local Fund and the Public Works Department opened relief measures but the wages offered and paid were low. The Bhils of Gujarat are generally non-migratory and are therefore apt to suffer during periods of agricultural depression.

In most other tracts in the Presidency labour increasingly tends to migrate to fields where better employment, better conditions and better wages are available. There was a great exodus from the Bijapur district to Hubli, Sholapur, Gadag and to other centres of trade and industry. In some cases whole villages were depopulated, and although very little employment was available for agricultural operations wages remained fairly steady. Full wages were offered at the relief works opened at Muddebihal and Guledgud but these measures failed to attract anything approaching the numbers which sought relief at such works in previous years of famine. In districts immediately adjacent to Bombay and Ahmedabad an actual dearth of labour was reported owing to the prevalence of higher wages in those cities.

It is becoming a matter of increasing concern to employers to find that efficiency shows no tendency to improve with the increase in wages. Frequent complaints are received from various employers to the effect that labourers do not attend at work punctually, are indifferent and slow, resentful of admonition, and inclined to throw up work at any time on the slightest pretext. In Sind the scarcity of capable cultivators has put those that are there in a position of dictating their own terms to the Zemindars for whom they work. The labourer, in view of the increase

in his wages, does not work as many days in the week as he ought to and spends much of the fairly good wages that he gets in drink.

Agricultural Labour.—In the Northern Division agricultural labour was generally scarce and dear. The higher wage obtainable in non-agricultural lines has now definitely checked the supply of cheap field labour, and as a result of this agriculture is suffering more and more with the increasing diversion of labour to the more remunerative non-agricultural industries. Rice fields were neglected in some places and remained uncultivated for want of tenants and labourers, especially in out-of-the-way places. Broach district had to import field labourers from the surrounding Indian States during the harvesting season; and Surat was the only district in Gujarat, where the season, the demand, and the supply of labour were all normal.

In Khandesh good cotton and Rabi crops, the bad climate prevailing in many talukas, the usual seasonal demand for cotton gins and cotton pressing and baling factories, and a considerable increase in building operations all combined to make the demand for labour exceedingly keen. As a result of this there was a great shortage in the supply of field labourers, and wages reached their maxima in the history of these two districts. The felling works of the Forest Department at Badgi, Musla and Goldari provided more than sufficient work for the labourers of Peint Taluka in the Nasik district. Sholapur city absorbed a considerable amount of labour from that and surrounding districts and as a consequence agricultural wages in the district were inclined to be slightly higher than the previous year. In the remaining districts of the Central Division wages were slightly lower owing to the generally unfavourable season.

In the Southern Division there was the usual exodus of labourers generally available for agricultural work from the Konkan districts to Bombay city. The spice gardeners in the above ghat tracts of the Kanara District found it very difficult to procure sufficient supplies of labour and had to pay high wages to the labour imported from Ankola, Goa, and the rest of the coast strip. Owing to famine conditions in certain tracts of the Bijapur District, labour was diverted to works such as removal of prickly pear and repairs to tanks in the desh tract. The expenditure in wages paid for the removal of prickly pears is estimated to have amounted to one lakh of rupees during the year in the third division of the district alone.

In Sind, wages of agricultural labourers in urban tracts remained at the same levels as in the previous year, and the supply was equal to the demand in all the districts of the division; but in the rural areas wages increased considerably and showed a rise of nearly 25 per cent. over the levels of the previous year. The following table gives the average daily wages of field labourers in the neighbourhood of district headquarter towns (urban areas) and in more rural areas by Divisions and Economic Circles and for the Presidency with and without Sind.

Divisions	Daily Average Wages in											
	1913				1922				1923			
	Urban areas			Rural areas			Urban areas			Rural areas		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Political Divisions—																		
Northern Division ..	0	4	9	0	3	9	0	10	3	0	8	0	0	11	0	0	8	3
Central Division ..	0	5	0	0	4	3	0	8	3	0	6	6	0	9	0	0	6	3
Southern Division ..	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	8	9	0	6	6	0	8	6	0	6	3
Economic Circles—																		
Gujarat Circle ..	0	4	6	0	3	9	0	9	9	0	8	0	0	10	9	0	8	3
Deccan Circle ..	0	4	6	0	4	0	0	8	3	0	6	3	0	8	3	0	6	0
Konkan Circle ..	0	5	3	0	4	6	0	10	3	0	8	6	0	11	3	0	9	0
Presidency proper ..	0	4	9	0	4	0	0	9	0	0	7	0	0	9	6	0	7	0
Sind ..	0	7	9	0	8	0	0	12	6	0	12	0	0	12	6	0	14	9
Whole Presidency ..	0	4	9	0	4	3	0	9	0	0	7	3	0	9	6	0	7	3

Unskilled Labour.—Except in the urban areas of Sind, where unskilled labourers earned an average wage of fifteen annas and nine pies per day in the year 1923-1924 as against Re. 1 per day in 1922-1923, all other parts of the Presidency including the rural areas of Sind report substantial increases in the wages of unskilled labourers during the year under report. Bombay and Salsette absorbed vast supplies of labour in connexion with the various reclamation and development schemes of the Development Department, the Improvement Trust and the Municipality, and in the electrification schemes and the projection of new construction works by the B. B. & C. I. and the G. I. P. Railways. In the Panch Mahals railway work and the lime kilns of Mr. Tana gave employment at good rates of pay to all those who asked for it. There was a considerable demand for unskilled labour in connexion with extensive constructional operations in Dhulia where the building of the municipal market and the Pratap Mill could not proceed with the desired rapidity owing to want of the necessary labour. The G. I. P. Railway workshops at Manmad, Igatpuri and Nandgaon and the work on the Nira Right Bank Canal offered sufficient employment to unskilled labourers in the Nasik and Satara districts to maintain wages at the prevailing high levels. The Satara District, however, supplied 48,900 professional labourers to Bombay, Karachi, Sholapur, the Gujarat and the Berars as against 36,000 in the previous year. In the Belgaum District a Criminal Tribes Settlement has been stationed at Khanapur for supplying labour for forest work. In Sind, the factories and workshops in Karachi and Hyderabad, new constructional works and casual labour at the Port provided sufficient

employment for all those who needed work. The wages of unskilled labourers were higher at Nawabshah than at other places in Sind, owing to the fact that Nawabshah is a new and growing town where the demand is generally greater than the supply. The following table shows the daily average wages of unskilled labourers in district headquarter towns (urban areas) and in certain talûka towns, one in each district (rural areas) in the same manner as in the case of field labourers.

Divisions	Daily Average Wages in					
	1913		1922		1923	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 5 3	0 4 3	0 13 3	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 11 3
Central Divison ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 9 3	0 6 3	0 10 3	0 6 6
Southern Division ..	0 5 9	0 4 9	0 9 9	0 8 3	0 10 3	0 7 9
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 5 3	0 4 0	0 12 6	0 9 3	0 13 3	0 11 0
Deccan Circle ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 9 8	0 6 6	0 10 0	0 6 3
Konkan Circle ..	0 6 3	0 5 3	0 12 0	0 10 6	0 13 0	0 10 6
Presidency Proper ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 10 6	0 7 9	0 11 3	0 8 0
Sind ..	0 8 0	0 7 3	1 0 0	0 10 3	0 15 9	0 11 9
Whole Presidency ..	0 6 3	0 5 3	0 12 0	0 8 6	0 12 6	0 9 0

Skilled Labour.—The daily average wages of skilled labourers for the whole Presidency remained at almost the same level as those in the previous year in urban areas and rose by 5 per cent. in rural areas. In the mofussil skilled labourers are becoming more independent day by day and are learning the advantages of organisation. The large amount of new constructional work in West Khandesh called for a greater supply of artisans and these had to be imported from surrounding districts. In the Satara district the wages of carpenters and masons in Mahableshwar were as high as Rs. 2 per day as against Re. 1 per day in the other parts of the district. Some skilled labour was imported into the Kolaba district for work in connexion with the activities of the Tata Companies. The following table shows the daily average wages of this class in the same way as in the two preceding tables.

Divisions	Daily Average Wages in 1913 Urban areas	1913 Rural areas	1922 Urban areas	1922 Rural areas	1923 Urban areas	1923 Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 13 9	0 11 9	2 3 6	1 13 9	2 3 6	2 0 3
Central Division ..	0 13 0	0 10 6	1 5 9	0 15 0	1 7 0	0 15 3
Southern Division ..	0 10 9	0 9 9	1 1 9	1 0 3	1 2 0	1 0 0
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 13 6	0 11 9	2 2 6	1 13 6	2 2 3	2 0 3
Deccan Circle ..	0 11 9	0 10 0	1 4 0	0 14 9	1 4 9	0 14 9
Konkan Circle ..	0 13 9	0 11 3	1 10 9	1 8 9	1 12 0	1 9 9
Presidency Proper ..	0 12 6	0 10 9	1 8 9	1 4 0	1 9 3	1 5 0
Sind ..	1 4 6	1 2 0	2 4 0	0 10 0	2 3 9	1 11 0
Whole Presidency ..	0 13 9	0 11 9	1 10 9	1 5 0	1 11 0	1 6 0

FAMINE

Northern Division.—There was no famine in the administrative sense in the Presidency but partial failure of rains affected several areas and necessitated relief works. In Panch Mahals remissions of land revenue had to be given. The Local Board opened two works at which over 7,911 workers obtained relief and the Public Works Department also had works on the Dohad-Alirajpur and Dohad-Jhalol Roads and Dohad-Kundanpur Road. The units employed at these works numbered 10,889.

Central Division.—In the Central Division the failure of crops was more marked and scarcity prevailed in some of the talukas of Ahmednagar, Poona, Satara and Sholapur Districts, though 'scarcity' in the technical sense of the word was not declared anywhere.

In addition to the suspension of land revenue and Tagai dues, the following measures were generally adopted for the alleviation of distress in the affected districts:—

(1) Liberal distribution of tagai for grass, *tals* and for deepening wells.
(2) Gratuitous relief to the infirm and to the inferior village servants.
(3) Extra remuneration to Patils.
(4) Special grants for improvement of village water supply.
(5) Opening of grass depôts.

Over Rs. 2,15,500 were given as Tagavi in these affected areas, while the expenditure on gratuitous relief and other measures was nearly Rs. 1,59,000.

It was not necessary to open relief works but expansions of the ordinary road construction programme of the Public Works Department were taken in hand in the Satara District. Two ordinary Local Board works, viz., the Vita-Kundal Road and the Khanapur-Ped Road were opened to give relief to the labouring population of the Khanapur taluka in the same district.

Grass Operations.—Seven grass depôts were opened in Poona District. In Satara scarcity of fodder was acute. Grass amounting to lbs. 778,000 was brought from Palghar and Nawapur and stored at four grass depôts for sale.

Sample waggons of baled grass from Nawapur and Palghar depôts amounting to lbs. 28,039 and 9,988 respectively were received in Sholapur but there was not much demand for it and the unsold portion had to be auctioned in the open bazar.

Southern Division.—The season was also unfavourable in the northern part of Belgaum and especially in the central and south-east parts of Bijapur, and in the latter scarcity was declared by Government. In both the Districts suspensions and remissions of land revenue were given, and Tagai for land improvement was sanctioned on a liberal scale.

One "relief" work in Belgaum and three in Bijapur were started as ordinary departmental works under the management of the Public Works Department, but the former did not attract an appreciable number of labourers. The works in Bijapur were fairly well attended.

Gratuitous relief to destitutes and village servants was given in almost all talukas of Bijapur, and extra remuneration was paid to village officers in deserving cases.

The forest areas in Bijapur were thrown open for free grazing of cattle and the rayats in Belgaum were allowed to remove "*As*" leaves free of charge. There was no demand for forest grass from either of the districts and the people were allowed to make their own arrangements for the supply of fodder.

The water scarcity which prevailed in all the above-ghat districts was tided over with the aid of liberal grants from Government, viz.:

Rs. 8,000 for Belgaum.
,, 30,000 for Bijapur.
,, 6,300 for Dharwar.

Relief measures were wound up from November 1924.

FORESTS

For purposes of administration the Presidency has been divided into four Forest Circles, which are in charge of Conservators. The Chief Conservator is at the head of the Forest Department.

The Controlling Forest Staff has been divided into an Imperial Service and a Provincial Service. The Imperial Service now consists of one Chief

Conservator, four Conservators and 30 Deputy and Assistant Conservators. The Provincial Forest Service consists of 26 officers, viz., one Extra Deputy Conservator of Forests, 17 Extra Assistant Conservators and 8 Probationary Extra Assistant Conservators.

Forest administration is a branch of the general administration and the central authority in forest matters is the Commissioner of a Division, subject to the general orders of Government. The Chief Conservator is the local head of the Forest Department and the technical adviser of Government in forest matters. Forest Officers in charge of Circles have full powers in all professional operations of technical forestry; but in all other matters, such as those of rights and privileges of the people in forests, local supply of grass, grazing and fodder and generally as regards the relation of the department with the people, control vests in the local revenue officers and the forest officers are subordinate to them for these purposes. A Working Plans Division is maintained in each Circle and the duties of the working plans divisional officers are to ascertain the capabilities of the forests in the production of timber and other forest produce and to prepare scientific schemes for the exploitation of the forests so that they may be worked for the greatest benefit both of the State and the people. The work in connection with the preparation of working plans is generally well advanced, but revision of plans is carried on continuously. The classification of forests into forest proper, fuel and fodder, reserves and pastures has been completed in all Circles and the areas classed as pastures have been transferred to the Revenue Department for management.

The area under "Forests" in this Presidency is nearly 15,000 square miles.

There were nearly 17,000 offences against the Forest Laws but only 354 cases, nearly half of which were pending from the previous year, were decided in court during the year. Wherever possible cases are compounded and 13,750 were so dealt with during the year and compensation amounting to Rs. 1,21,000 recovered. The attitude of the people towards the Forest Department was generally favourable and the policy of rewarding for good fire protection and enforcing communal punishment for bad fire protection was continued with good effect.

Protection from cattle.—The forest areas open and closed to grazing were as follows:—

	Sq. miles.	Per cent.
Closed to all animals for the whole year ..	2,316	15·47
Closed to all animals for part of the year ..	199	1·33
Open to all animals except browsers for the whole year	9,133	61·01
Open to all animals for the whole year ..	3,322	22·19
	14,970	

Additional areas were thrown open to grazing in parts of the West Khandesh and Satara Divisions in order to meet the fodder scarcity during the hot months.

Nearly 2½ million cattle were admitted to grazing in the forest lands. Grazing fees collected amounted to nearly Rs. 5,22,000 but the value of the grazing at full rates was Rs. 20,62,000.

During the year 7,355,000 cubic feet of timber and fuel were extracted *departmentally* together with sandalwood worth Rs. 65,300 and minor produce, grass, etc., to the value of Rs. 21,292.

The actual outturn of major and minor produce removed by consumers and purchasers was :—

Major Produce

	Rs.
(1) *Timber*—4,530,000 cubic feet valued at ..	27,58,000
(2) *Fuel*— 33,362,000 cubic feet valued at ..	6,34,000

Minor Produce

	Rs.
(3) Bamboos—valued at ..	1,34,000
(4) Grass and Grazing—valued at ..	7,89,000
(5) Other minor produce valued at ..	2,11,000
making a total for minor produce of ..	11,34,000

The outturn from all sources of forest produce during 1923-24 was :—

Timber	6,346,000	cubic feet
Fuel	45,883,000	,,

The total expenditure on the management of State Forests was Rs. 19,18,000.

The total surplus amounted to nearly Rs. 30 lakhs, the percentage of surplus to gross revenue varying from 58·1 in the Northern Circle to 20·8 in the Southern Circle. The *net* surplus was over 27 lakhs, a percentage of surplus to gross revenue of 38·4.

Famine Fodder Operations.—The Forest Department had stored over 12 million pounds of pressed grass and owing to the failure of the monsoon and consequent fodder scarcity in the Deccan and Gujarat districts demands were made on this storage which supplied in all nearly 4 million pounds of grass to the affected districts.

There was no improvement in the timber trade during the year. The extent of the slump may be gauged by the fact that whereas the best coupe in North Thana, where the highest prices are realised, fetched Rs. 166 per acre in 1922-23, a similar coupe averaged only Rs. 130 per acre. For the total area of nearly 8 million acres of forests in charge of the Forest Department the gross and the net revenue works out at about

14½ as. and 5½ as. respectively. This low average of gross revenue in comparison with the North Thana figure just given is due to the fact that the Forest Department has under its charge areas which not only do not give any revenue but actually cost something to protect and maintain, chiefly in the interests of the regulation of the water supply. Moreover, the Department is not credited with the value of material given free under rights and privileges or as free grants, which amounted in the year under report to over Rs. 7 lakhs.

A contract for the supply of ten thousand teak crossing sleepers to the G. I. P. Railway was completed and a supply to the same Railway of teak logs was continued. A contract was entered into with the M. & S. M. Railway for the annual supply of one lakh of sleepers for three years, but the Department lost an assured market by the decision of the Railway to use coal in preference to fuel which they had been taking from the Forest Department for nearly 35 years and this had an effect on the economical management of certain forests worked for the supply of fuel.

The engineering department of the Forest Service carried out a programme of road making, etc. The extension of road communications is the main line by which forest development can advance. Up to quite recently buffaloes and elephants were the only source of power for the extraction of trees cut down in the process of exploitation. Mechanical transport of various types has been tried with successful results. The cost of working the Fordson tractor with a special skidding wheel attachment and suitable gear is less than animal power and its capacity is far greater. No logs have proved too difficult for extraction by this machine. Improvements are also being made in animal power extraction by the introduction of bullock winches.

In his annual report the Chief Conservator of Forests points out that the decrease in the surplus is misleading as it was due not only to an increase in the working expenditure but also to an increase in the capital expenditure from revenue. This latter, undoubtedly, increases the value of the forest property and will result in greater returns in future. "The slump in trade which immediately followed the short-lived post-war boom has swept out of existence many a concern but the Forest Department in Bombay has shown a handsome surplus all through which not all Provinces could show. With all this the management is more scientific than ever it was."

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The progress of the co-operative movement like almost every other movement, social or economic, depends upon the nature of the agricultural season. Its development during the year 1923-24. was therefore not uniform throughout the Presidency. In districts like Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Sholapur which had again to face a bad year the position

was more or less stationary and attention was devoted mainly to consolidation of work already done and to the improvement of the existing societies rather than to organisation of new ones. On the whole, however, the agricultural credit movement made fairly satisfactory progress during the year in the Presidency. There was an increase of 210 in the number of societies while the number of members increased by 21,000.

The most noticeable progress was, however, as regards working capital, which rose from 5⅓ to 6¼ crores during the year. Steps have been taken to lay down a policy for more effective supervision from within. Better supervision rendered it possible and safer to finance members more adequately than before and for this purpose funds were not lacking. In spite of a very stringent money market the Provincial Bank and the District Banks had more than sufficient funds to meet current demands and had in fact, to invest large sums outside. At a time when the Imperial Bank rate was as high as 9 per cent. the Provincial Bank instead of raising its rate on deposits had actually to lower it by ½ per cent. without causing any depletion in the resources at its command.

Amongst the districts Dharwar is the most advanced not only as regards the number of co-operative societies but also as regards the variety of co-operative activities carried on there. It has now 545 societies and nearly 30 per cent. of its population is directly or indirectly connected with the co-operative movement. Two of the districts which have made the most progress are South Satara and Broach where the population connected with the movement is 24 per cent. and 20 per cent. respectively. The canal areas of Poona and Ahmednagar districts took up as usual a large amount of capital averaging about Rs. 200 per member. The rest of the East Deccan, however, owing to the recurrence of bad seasons made little progress during the year. The movement is expanding rapidly in Khandesh where the opening of a branch of the Provincial Bank has facilitated the organisation and finance of societies. In the non-credit movement very good progress has been made in co-operative marketing of cotton in the Karnatak and in Gujarat and grain and vegetables in Sind.

A noticeable feature has been the organisation of 5 fencing societies in the Southern Division which have enclosed 5,400 acres of land and protected them from the ravages of wild animals. A large part of this area was uncultivable before owing to the enormous damage done by these wild animals. Even in the remaining area the cultivator could secure for himself only a part of the produce.

In Sind the movement continued to make satisfactory progress. In fact, if the figures for 1918 are compared with those of the last year the progress would appear to be remarkable. In 1918 there were only 65 societies, with 3,000 members and 1½ lakhs working capital. Last year the number of societies went up to 558, members to 23,000 and the working

capital to 51 lakhs. In respect of the working capital the increase during the course of the year alone was as much as 34 per cent. This large progress has been due to co-operation between all classes, official and non-official, and to the splendid work done by the Honorary Organisers and the District Banks under the influence and guidance of the Assistant Registrar, Khan Bahadur Azim.khan.

The Provincial Bank has now a capital of over a crore of which 20 lakhs is non-withdrawable. It has opened eight branches and, through the shops which are attached to some of them, it arranges to supply agricultural requisites like manure and implements and also to sell agricultural produce, chiefly molasses. It occupies now a very strong position and at one time during the year it was not only in a position to finance district banks and societies but had surpluses of nearly 55 lakhs which could not be invested within the co-operative movement. With adequate financing of members and with the development of co-operative marketing it is hoped that such surpluses will be rapidly utilised within the movement itself in future. In spite of the fact that surpluses had to be invested at a comparatively low rate of interest the Bank was able to make a good profit and to declare a dividend of 8 per cent. for the latter half of the year.

Co-operative Banking in urban areas had developed rapidly during the last three years. Out of the 411 societies that now exist the 39 Urban Banks are the most important. Out of these 21 are Peoples' Banks of the Luzzatti type of which membership is open to all living in a certain urban area and which not only receive deposits and arrange for finance of their members but also do other kinds of banking business. Of the remainder 11 are communal banks members of which belong to a particular class of society and 7 are societies confined to persons of a particular kind of employment. The total membership of all Urban Credit Societies now existing comes to one lakh and the working capital to 1½ crores.

The Consumers' Movement did not show any appreciable progress during the year although a few societies did very good work. There are now two hostels in Bombay, one the Madrasee Hostel and the other the Nayar Hostel which provide both boarding and lodging for persons coming to Bombay from outside for work. These two together had a turnover of over Rs. 21,000. The Students' Society at the Sydenham College has been doing very useful work and its example is now being followed by the St. Xavier's College. Amongst the other consumers' societies only a few have been successful so far. The Bulsar Railway Co-operative Association and the Hadapsar Store are progressing on sound lines. If sufficient number of workers and also good management are available there is considerable scope for advancement of the Consumers' Movement especially in Bombay City.

Although none of the new housing societies except one showed much progress during the year, the older societies continued to expand. There

are now several excellent co-operative colonies and that of the Kanara Gaud Saraswat Society at Andheri may be taken as a model by other similar societies. The Catholic Society and the Saraswat Suburban Society at Santa Cruz have a large number of tenements to which they have been adding every year. Good progress was this year shown by the Gaud Saraswat which has now a set of fine buildings constructed at Matunga. Outside Bombay, two societies at Dharwar have put up a number of model buildings in a healthy and pleasant area on the outskirts of the City. The Indian Christian Society at Ahmednagar has carried out its scheme of building 2 room and 4 room tenements for men of poor means.

There has been no appreciable progress in Producers' Societies. The total number is now 24 of which 18 are working. The Weavers' societies showed some progress, though not as much as was desired and expected. There are only about 3,000 weavers in the movement, a small proportion of the total number in the Presidency. A good many of these societies do only credit business. It is only when a society provides yarn to its members and sells the finished product that it can do real good to its members. Some of the societies which did this were able to show good work and the total sales amounted to Rs. 3 lakhs. To arrange for the wholesale purchase and sale of finished articles a Union has been started at Hubli and a Store at Sholapur. The former had a turnover of Rs. 61,000 but the latter started work only after the close of the year. What a good society can do for weavers can be seen from the working of the society at Karkamb in Sholapur. With an initial capital of Rs. 1,500 it has now a reserve of Rs. 1,400. It purchased yarn worth about Rs. 33,000 last year and had a similar turnover as regards sales. The advantages, however, have not been purely material. The reputation of its members for training and character is now higher than it was before and there is a growing tendency to settle all their disputes amongst themselves.

The Co-operative Institute continues to develop its activities greatly. It arranged for several conferences, published lectures and also organised training classes both for Secretaries and for Managing Committee Members. The work done as regards propaganda and training has been productive of much good. It has a quarterly of its own which can compare favourably with any magazine of its kind anywhere in the world. Each of its branches also has its own vernacular magazine. The Institute origanised the Provincial Co-operative Conference which was held in Poona in September 1923. Its Standing and Legal Committees are now taking an important part in the development of the co-operative movement and have given valuable advice both to the department and to the Co-operative workers in the Presidency.

The Co-operative Bill received the approval of the Governor in Council and passed the stage of first reading at the last August Session of the

Legislative Council. It has been referred to a Select Committee. The rules under the Bill have already been framed and will be published as soon as the Bill is passed.

Defects and drawbacks there certainly are in the movement. Even in countries where the population is more educated and more advanced these are not non-existent. But its advantages are great and are now fully appreciated. So far as the public is concerned the movement is looked upon with sympathy and there is no opposition from any party, political or otherwise.

HORTICULTURE

PUBLIC GARDENS

Bombay Municipal Gardens.—Nine public gardens were maintained during the year. The Small Dick's Tank Garden was partly acquired by the City Improvement Trust in their Parel Road Scheme and the remainder was handed over to Government for the Sir J. J. Hospital. The number of visitors to the Victoria Garden was 2,234,000 against 2,132,000 in the previous year. One hundred and eleven band performances were given at the different band-stands and 17 performances of Indian Music, 15 at the Victoria Gardens and 2 at the Working Men's Institute.

Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona.—These gardens are maintained by the Agri-Horticultural Society of Western India. They are of an highly ornamental character and constitute an asset of great value to Poona.

In spite of adverse character of weather conditions, the flower garden was kept well supplied throughout the year. The Cannas and Dahalias showed a large variety of colour and form and made a brilliant show.

All the best known varieties of European and Indian vegetables were cultivated. The income realized from the sale of wedding and presentation bouquets (a speciality of these gardens), decorated baskets, wreaths, crosses and cut flowers, was about Rs. 6,600. The income for the year at the Empress Garden was Rs. 25,300 and expenditure Rs. 31,200. The income includes Rs. 8,200 from the sale of plants, Rs. 6,600 from flowers, Rs. 5,500 from seeds, Rs. 900 from fruits and Rs. 700 from vegetables.

Bund Garden.—The Bund Garden retained its character as a display garden and a place of resort for residents of the City. The cost of maintaining it was Rs. 4,100 which was not covered by the sale-proceeds. The Empress Garden bore the burden of its deficit.

CHAPTER VI

TRADE AND COMMERCE

NORTHERN DIVISION.—Ahmedabad City is the chief industrial centre in Gujarat, the chief industry being cotton spinning and weaving. There were 158 factories there at the close of the year. Most of the mills worked at a loss and the money market remained tight. The depression in the mill industry, however, was not a cause of unemployment as the factories did not close down. The cotton trade flourished throughout the district except in parts of Viramgam.

One of the two textile mills at Nadiad in Kaira remainedclosed throughout the year, but the extended cultivation of cotton in Thasra taluka is leading to the opening of Gins and Presses at Thasra and surrounding villages.

The lime industry at Dohad is in a fairly prosperous condition and the forthcoming transfer of the Parel Workshop of the B.B.& C.I. Railway to Dohad will add to the importance of the town.

The general depression in the textile industry continued in the Broach district. The mills reduced wages which resulted in strikes in the Saraswati and Fine Counts Mills which lasted for about a month. Owing to the application of Cotton Transport Act to the area situated to the south of the river Narbada adulteration of cotton has ceased and agriculturists in Ankleshwar and Hansot realised high prices for their cotton.

In Surat the depression in the mill industry continued but the ginning factories did well owing to the high price of cotton. The local (Surat City) silk and embroidery business flourished on account of reduced competition from Central Europe. The trade in timber and bricks was dull on account of inactivity in building operations and the extended use of cement, etc.

Central Division.—The outturn of the cotton crop was fairly good in the Ahmednagar, West Khandesh and Nasik districts whereas in East Khandesh the outturn was rather poor when compared with that of the last year. In the Ahmednagar district 20 ginning and pressing factories and in the Nasik district 9 ginning factories were at work.

In the Sholapur district the general depression in the cotton mill industry experienced during 1923 still continued to some extent in the year of report, though the Sholapur mills on the whole compared very favourably with those in Bombay probably because the strikes in Bombay kept the Mills there closed for about three months and prevented the

cloth and yarn markets from being overstocked. Sholapur enjoyed complete immunity from labour unrest culminating in strikes and lock-outs.

The Collector of Sholapur observes :—

"The year under report points to the fact that the boom experienced from 1919 onwards has definitely come to an end, and that the Mills here have been and are still passing through an intermediate period to a stage where normal trading on a pre-war level of profits should once more be possible."

"How long this intermediate period is likely to last it is difficult to forecast, but if the coming American Cotton crop is as large as predicted and the Indian crop above the normal, as seems likely, cotton will be cheap in 1925, the price of cotton and yarn will correspondingly drop and this should lead to a higher consumption of cotton goods and free-er trading."

In the Poona district trade and industries suffered owing to the depression in the money market, while the poor yield of the crop affected the export trade of potatoes and groundnut.

The Nasik and Satara districts are mainly agricultural. In the Satara district large quantities of jaggery and turmeric from Karad, Walwa and Tasgaon talukas, onions from Khandalla Mahal and corriander seed from Javli taluka were exported. Eggs were exported from Javli and Man talukas—the dealing in eggs in the latter taluka amounting to as much as Rs. 15,000 in the year.

The Belapur Sugar Co. (Ahmednagar) made good progress, but owing to the delay in the erection of the Sugar Factory, the Company was compelled to make jaggery instead of sugar. The Nira Valley Sugar Factory at Baramati and the Hanuman Sugar Factory at Fursingi—both in the Poona district—were in a flourishing condition.

A weaving school was started in the town of Sinnar by Government to encourage the weaver class. The carpet and handloom industry of the American Mission at Ahmednagar had to be discontinued for want of demand.

The Reay Paper Mill at Mundhwa manufactured paper valued at Rs. 3,50,000.

The tannery at Wanowri (Poona) exported leather and hides in large quantities.

The glass factories at Talegaon Dabhade (Poona) and Oglewadi (Satara), the Match Factory at Karad, the factory for manufacturing iron ploughs at the Satara Road Station, the Kirloskar Brothers' Iron Factory, Mr. Tikekar's Textile Factory and metal works at Tikekarwadi, the Ravi Varma Fine Art Litho Press at Karla (Poona) and the Carpet Factory at Kuna (near Lonavla) did well on the whole.

Southern Division.—The cotton ginning and pressing factories had a good season except in the southern part of Bijapur. The jowari and wheat trade in Bijapur was slack owing to insufficient rainfall, while the import of Burma rice caused a decline in the export of rice from Kolaba.

The fishing industry in the Coast districts was in a flourishing condition.

Hand-spinning was at a standstill everywhere. The country blanket industry in Bagalkot in the Bijapur district suffered from a reduction in the number of sheep and though a large export of sarees and bodice cloth took place from Ilkal and Guledgud, the industry did not remain entirely unaffected by the unfavourable conditions of the season. In Dharwar the gudar industry at Hebsur did well, and the carpet factory at Navalgund received a new lease of life from the new co-operative society. The Gokak Falls Mills and the Shree Krishna Weaving Mills of Belgaum did fairly well. The hand weaving industry has recently received a fillip by the appointment of a special Weaving Master by Government at Manoli in the Parasgad taluka to teach improved methods.

The oil mills in Belgaum, the Pioneer Clay Works in Khanapur, the bangle industry at Ghodgeri, the sardine oil factory at Honawar, the mango pulp factory at Ankola and the brass and cart-wheel industries at Panwel (Kolaba) were prosperous, while the Vijayadurg Button Factory, Ratnagiri had a slack season.

Sind.—The favourable economic and agricultural condition reacted on local industries with the result that the rice husking factories had abundant stocks to deal with during the year. The wheat grinding and oil pressing factories also did fairly well. The cotton ginning factories were in a particularly flourishing condition, as cotton commanded abnormal prices with a ready market. Other comparatively minor industries such as those connected with sugar-cane, earthenware, pan grass and lacquer, proceeded much as usual.

The two cloth weaving factories at Rohri had a fairly good year and the weaving and spinning factory at Larkana did better than last year. The Udhaldas silk factory at Shikarpur ceased to work while some 250 looms turned out silk cloth at Tatta. The coarse wollen cloth industry was in a fairly prosperous condition, as the local demand for its products still continues.

The dyeing industry did somewhat better than in the previous year. The leather tannery at Pano Akil enjoys a somewhat precarious existence. The glass factory at Jungshahi was closed owing to financial difficulties. In the Karachi district a tile industry at Budapur and a factory for the productions of sulphuric acid at Kotri were started, the latter turning out 25 gallons of acid per day working 15 days in the month. In the

Hyderabad district celluloid bangles are now being made on a large scale in the place of the former ivory ones.

Bombay Suburban Division.— The building trade with its ancillary industries of lime extraction, quarrying, brick-making and timber import continued depressed.

The old factories all continued at work except that a small Aluminium Works at Vile Parle closed down because of litigation between the partners A new glass factory was established at Kurla. The Match Factories which apart from the New Swadeshi Match Factory at Amberneth, are small concerns, appear to flourish, although at present they all merely assemble imported materials and depend for their existence solely in the difference in the rating of import duties between the finished match box and its various constituents.

Milch cattle stables continued to increase and their presence in the more congested parts of Bandra and Kurla particularly gives rise to a nuisance which must be seriously tackled. Cattle stables are at present an extremely profitable investment.

Nearly two hundred permits were issued for heavy motor lorries, which either bring in building materials to Bombay or carry out materials to factories and bring back to Bombay the manufactured products.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES.

The Department of Industries came into existence in 1917. Its administration is vested in the Director of Industries. The Director's main functions are the promotion of local industrial enterprises,

(*a*) by advice and information,

(*b*) the introduction of new methods and improved implements,

(*c*) the management of pioneer and demonstration factories, and

(*d*) examination of requests for loans and other concessions and suggestions of the form of assistance required.

The Director also studies the economic conditions of the Presidency from the industrial point of view, collects commercial information and investigates all existing industries which give promise of local development with a view to rendering them any assistance in his power. He is assisted by an Advisory Committee, of which he is *ex-officio* Chairman, consisting of persons interested in trade and industry. On the technical and industrial side the Department manages a hand-loom weaving section. It has also a Pottery expert, and part-time services of officers of other departments and institutions are utilised for technical assistance and advice to the Department. The object of the weaving section is to introduce improved appliances and methods amongst the weaving population so as to raise the standard and increase the amount of their output. This is carried out by means of weaving schools and by

demonstrations. The pottery expert is investigating the clay resources in several parts of the Bombay Presidency for the manufacture of Pottery. The commercial possibilities of vegetable oils, casein manufacture, glass-making, bitterns at the Kharaghoda salt-works, sugar and tanning have also received attention. The Department imparts instruction in mechanical engineering and has introduced a system of apprenticeship at the workshops at Dapuri for the training of boys as skilled tradesmen such as fitters, turners, machine hands, etc. It has also instituted scholarships for the study of advanced industrial chemistry and electrical engineering.

The industrial and commercial depression of 1922-23 continued throughout 1923-24.

The department carried on its work as usual headed by a Director and an Assistant Director and assisted by an advisory committee. The Deputy Director and the Dapuri Workshops were transferred back to the Public Works Department. The staff of the department was also heavily retrenched and it was not possible to undertake new industrial investigations. Only two meetings of the advisory committee were held during the year, the last one to take the opinion of the Committee on a proposal to close the department consequent on the abolition of the appointment of the Director of Industries by the Legislative Council in their session of Feburary 1924. Thus as a result of the vote of the Legislature and also in view of the limited activities of the department, Government decided, in June last, to abolish the post of the Director of Industries and to relegate the main activities of the department to other officers. The control of the Factory, Boiler and Smoke Nuisances Departments was transferred to the Collector of Bombay, the weaving section to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies under the guidance of a Superintendent of Weaving and the management of research scholarships to the Director of Public Instruction. The Pottery section continued in charge of the Pottery expert of the Sir J. J. School of Art who was busy throughout the year in organising on a semi-commercial scale a small pottery factory opened for manufacuring glazed pottery and acid jars. A number of experiments were carried out with various clays to find the best mixture for manufacturing flooring tiles and acid jars.

The Magnesium Chloride Factory at Kharaghoda had to be closed down, but a number of Match Factories were started producing matches from imported splints and veneers for match boxes.

The chief activities of the Department were directed as usual towards introducing better and more economical methods and appliances in hand-loom weaving, dyeing and calico printing in the cottage industries.

The Assistant Director had seven hand-loom weaving demonstrations at different weaving centres, while weaving schools continued to introduce

shuttle looms at different centres. The dyeing and calico printing demonstrations held at Faizpur, Dhulia and Chirni proved satisfactory. The dyers of those places petitioned for extension of the period of these demonstrations.

The Casein factory opened at Anand some years ago had to be closed down in the course of retrenchment and Rennet casein manufactured during the year was sent to London for testing its commercial value but the report was not very favourable.

THE FACTORIES ACT

Striking reduction in child labour.—There was a net increase of 141 in the number of factories in 1923 which reached the total of 1,203. Of these additional factories 52 were in Bombay City alone; and the remainder at Karachi, Ahmedabad, Ahmednagar, West Khandesh and other places. The large increase in the number of factories has been mainly due to the operation of the amended Act, which now brings under control factories employing between 20 and 50 persons in addition to the factories employing 50 or over as formerly.

The increasing importance of factory inspection has been recognised and additional staff employed for this purpose. The appointment of Assistant Directors of Public Health and Certifying Surgeons as ex-officio Inspectors has been helpful in remedying sanitary defects in the factories.

The total number of operatives employed in all industries was 356,480 as compared with 360,518 last year. The number of women employed during the year was 69,456, while the number of children was 11,411. Of these, factories in Bombay City alone employed 31,602 women and 903 children.

Last year it was observed that the number of children employed in Bombay (*i.e.*, 1,498) was the lowest on record for 23 years. Employment statistics show that this number has been further reduced to 903, while over the whole Presidency the numbers of children have fallen from 15,800 to 11,400, a reduction of 28 per cent. in 2 years. The number of children appearing for certificates is still greatly in excess of the numbers employed. In Bombay 7,203 children appeared for medical examination (as against a total employment of 903) but this again is only o e-third of the numbers which appeared five or six years ago. The Factory Department has at last got to grips with the problem of the exploitation of child labour in Ahmedabad, where the recently appointed Certifying Surgeon has made a promising start.

Referring to the question of child labour, the Collector of Bombay remarks :—

"The wholesale check on the employment of children in Bombay Mills is a matter worth the attention of the economist and the welfare

worker. What are the children now doing? Are they being educated? One result of the diminution of child labour is that numerous mill schools have lately been closed. A year ago there were 15 mill schools for half-timers and children of operatives in Bombay; now there appear to be only 4 of which only one is an institution recognised and inspected by Government. One would like to be assured that the children, though no longer employed, are still being educated somewhere."

In Ahmedabad there are 6 factory schools instituted by mills and 19 managed by the Labour Union.

There was a considerable reduction in the number of accidents. Fatal accidents numbered 23, serious 108, minor 684, a total of 815. Fatal accidents were the lowest since 1915, while the total number of accidents is the smallest for 10 years. In the whole of Bombay Island only one person was killed by machinery in motion.

As regards housing the need for further accommodation is felt at Ahmedabad where only about 1,000 rooms of good pattern have been erected by the mills in the past. In Sholapur additional quarters have been built and the mills are contemplating further extensions. A large factory erected in the Bombay Suburban District for the manufacture of pipes for the Municipality has provided accommodation for nearly 900 persons and has engaged a full-time doctor to supervise and render medical aid.

In Bombay the chief feature has been the progress made by the Development Department who have now erected nearly 3,000 rooms. The blocks of new chawls have generally more space between them than chawls of older designs and show distinct improvement as regards air movement or ventilation.

Progress has been made in the direction of preventing young children from accompanying their mothers to work. In Bombay very young children are rarely seen in the mills or other factories whilst the prevalent custom in Ahmedabad is being gradually broken down. Thus 10 mills in the latter place have established creches with trained nurses and a free supply of milk and linen while 7 others have set apart a separate shed. It takes time to break through long established customs but the progress made in Sholapur may be cited as an example of what can be accomplished by sustained effort and interest on the part of agents and managers.

A large volume of welfare work continues to be done in factories. The activities of the larger firms in Bombay Island and Ahmedabad in this direction are well known and they do not appear to have slackened their ameliorative efforts during the present slump. The volume of welfare work carried on in the Sholapur mills is, however, not so well known, and deserves mention. All the mills at this place maintain creches, a

grain allowance is given, whilst schools are maintained for the half-timers. It appears certain that the percentage of literacy amongst mill children in Sholapur is the highest of the main centres of the industry in the Presidency. The Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills—the oldest established in Sholapur—sets a standard which the others are keen to follow. The activities of this mill cover practically the whole range of welfare work. A full time welfare officer is employed in addition to a full time doctor. A well equipped hospital is maintained and the medical activities may be gauged by the fact that over 50,000 out-door patients were treated in 1923 whilst nearly 500 operations were performed. Nearly 80 per cent. of the children attend school, troops of Boy Scouts under a Scout Master are 80 strong whilst a restaurant and a reading room have been provided for the employees who also receive the benefit of loan funds, employees' stores, a provident fund and a gratuity fund. The latest type of housing provided is a model of cleanliness. The mill spends nearly a lakh of rupees per annum on all their various forms of welfare activities, and the success of the efforts is primarily due to the direct personal interest taken by the agent and his officers.

During the year 2,694 boilers were inspected and certified by the Boiler Inspection Department. The Officers of the Smoke Nuisances Department made 2,313 observations during the year and paid 2,528 visits to factories. In Bombay and the other areas to which the Act has been applied the emission of dense black smoke has been prohibited. The amalgamated Department of Factories, Boilers and Smoke Nuisances was, during the year, separated into two Departments, namely, Factory Inspection Department and Steam Boiler and Smoke Nuisances Inspection Department.

SEA-BORNE TRADE

Last year indicated a welcome return to normal trading conditions. In the year now under review the trade of the Presidency maintained the even tenor of its way with two main exceptions, the one favourable and the other unfavourable. Raw cotton, for the second year in succession, yielded record export figures both in value and volume. No less than 528,000 tons of Indian cotton left the port of Bombay for abroad, and its value was Rs. 75½ crores, which represented nearly 22 per cent. of the total value of the Indian Empire's exports of indigenous produce and manufactures. These figures take no account of the foreign—mostly African—cotton valued at Rs. 131 lakhs which was re-exported from Bombay during the year. The result of these heavy cotton shipments was that the Presidency's favourable balance of trade in merchandise improved from Rs. 14 crores to more than Rs. 26½ crores, despite the fact that the value of the remaining exports was nearly Rs. 4½ crores down. But while raw

cotton boomed, the Indian mills which used it as raw material naturally suffered, especially in the export market. The vallue of the despatches of yarn declined by more than Rs. 1¾ crore, and though piecegoods were exported in larger quantities their total value was Rs. 52 lakhs less than in the preceding year. In fact the only important article of export apart from raw cotton which improved in value was seeds, and even then the quantity shipped contracted. But there is no serious ground for despondency; Bombay is predominantly a cotton port, and so long as the statistical position of the world's production and consumption of cotton remains as strong as it is now, India's cotton will remain in keen demand.

Imports showed a small advance of Rs. 39 lakhs; in view of the fact that the trend of prices was still downwards, this cannot be accounted altogether unsatisfactory. Though unaided as in the previous year by falling prices, cotton piecegoods improved by nearly Rs. 4 crores. In fact imports of all textile fabrics expanded; thus woollen piecegoods improved by Rs. 45 lakhs, silk piecegoods by Rs. 16 lakhs, mixed silk and cotton goods by Rs. 9½ lakhs, artificial silk and mixed cotton and artificial silk goods by Rs. 57 lakhs, and the general head apparel by Rs. 19 lakhs. These fabrics were imported to meet a genuine consumptive demand. The harassing uncertainty regarding cotton prices prevented big business, and consequently stocks are still low. The same uncertainty affected the yarn trade, and as Bombay had bought cheaply and largely in the preceding year it is not surprising that her imports during 1923-24 were nearly Rs. 1 crore down. Metals and ores again advanced in quantity by 50,000 tons and in value by Rs. 48 lakhs. As a result of intensive effort and her increased post-war productive capacity, the United Kingdom regained her position as the chief steel exporting country in the world, and Bombay proved a large customer. Imports of machinery and millwork receded by nearly Rs. 2¾ crores; this reflects the hard times through which the textile industry is passing. A very unsteady world market made sugar dealers cautious, and imports decreased markedly.

The direction of Bombay's trade was substantially unchanged. The shares of the United Kingdom and of the Empire as a whole declined somewhat, but there was a very welcome increase in the trade with Continental Europe, especially on the export side. In fact Europe, which had only taken 21·4 per cent. of Bombay's exports in the preceding year, took 28·3 per cent. in the year under review as against 35·27 per cent. in 1913-14. Germany lost ground, but practically every other country advanced, in particular Italy. Japan's shipments to India declined slightly, but owing to the high price of cotton her share in the total trade rose once more.

SEA-BORNE TRADE

India's favourable balance of trade was as usual liquidated in large measure by imports into Bombay of the precious metals. Arrivals of gold and silver, on private account did not attain to the record figure of the previous year, but nevertheless amounted to Rs. 47 crores. Supplies of gold fell away by Rs. 12 crores, but silver advanced by nearly Rs. 1 crore.

The total trade of the Bombay Presidency was 336½ crores of rupees, 3½ crores less than in the previous year. These figures were made up as follows :—

Foreign Trade (private)—

Imports—136 crores 47 lakhs, a decrease of 10 crores 94 lakhs ;

Exports—117 crores 91 lakhs, an increase of 13 crores 38 lakhs ;

a total foreign trade of 254 crores 38 lakhs, showing a gain of 2 crores 44 lakhs.

Coasting Trade (private)—

Imports—40 crores 81 lakhs, a decrease of 2 crores 31 lakhs ;

Exports—38 crores 77 lakhs, a decrease of 79 lakhs ;

giving a total coasting trade of 79 crores 58 lakhs, a net decrease of 3 crores 11 lakhs, making a grand total for private trade of 333 crores 97 lakhs, a decrease, on the total for the year before, of 67 lakhs.

Adding to this figure Government transactions amounting to Rs. 2 crores and 50 lakhs, (2 crores 51 lakhs less than the previous year), the total sea-borne trade amounted to 336 crores 48 lakhs, a decrease of 3 crores 18 lakhs over the previous year.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE PORTS OF BOMBAY AND KARACHI

The following table shows the value to the nearest lakh of the Foreign Import and Export trade of the ports of Bombay and Karachi grouped according to classes shown in Government accounts :—

Imports		Increase or decrease in 1923-24.
BOMBAY	Lakhs.	Lakhs.
Food, drink and tobacco	925	— 92
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured.	1,029	— 36
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	6,697	+ 194
Living animals ..	14	— 4
Postal articles not specified	193	— 23
Total ..	**8,858**	+ **39**
KARACHI		
Food, drink and tobacco	487	— 42
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	131	+ 15

	Lakhs.	Increase or decrease in 1923-24. Lakhs.
KARACHI—*contd.*		
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	1,533	+ 127
Living animals	$\frac{1}{100}$	— $\frac{9}{100}$
Postal articles not specified	13	+ 2
Total ..	**2,164**	+ **102**

Exports

BOMBAY

Indian Produce and Manufacture.

Food, drink and tabacco	300	+ 1
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	9,140	+ 1,689
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	1,053	— 229
Postal articles	114	+ 14
Total ..	**10,607**	+ **1,475**

KARACHI

Indian Produce and Manufacture.

Food, drink and tobacco	1,285	+ 703
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	2,393	+ 801
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	33	..
Living animals	½	+ ¼
Postal articles	4	+ ¼
Total ..	**3,715**	+ **1,504½**

BOMBAY

Foreign Merchandise.

Food, drink and tobacco	116	— 145
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	302	+ 56
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	483	— 82
Living animals	2	..
Postal articles	10	..
Total ..	**913**	— **171**

	Lakhs	Increase or decrease in 1923-24. Lakhs.
KARACHI		
Foreign Merchandise.		
Food, drink and tobacco	58	— 5
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	84	— 12
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	102	+ 4
Articles re-exported by post ..	..	— $\frac{1}{10}$
Total ..	244	— 13

Total Exports, Bombay—11,520 lakhs, an increase of 1,304 lakhs.
Total Exports, Karachi—3,959 lakhs, an increase of 1,491 lakhs.

CHIEF PORT—BOMBAY

The foreign trade of the Presidency proper is virtually confined to its chief port—Bombay. The aggregate value of the foreign trade (private) of Bombay, exclusive of treasure, again increased by Rs. 13 crores or 7 per cent. to Rs. 204 crores. The total foreign trade of Calcutta advanced by Rs. 7 crores or 3 per cent. to Rs. 203 crores and that of Karachi by Rs. 16 crores or 35 per cent. to Rs. 61 crores. For the first time the trade of Bombay in merchandise exceeded that of Calcutta. Imports of merchandise into Bombay and Karachi rose in value by nearly ½ per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively, but imports into Calcutta fell by 4½ per cent. Cotton manufactures, raw cotton, artificial silk, wool manufactures, metals and ores, oils, silk manufactures, tea, and railway plant and rolling stock were chiefly responsible for the increase in Bombay and cotton manufactures, machinery and mill work, and mineral oils in Karachi. On the other hand large decreases were recorded in machinery and mill work, coal, cotton twist and yarn, sugar and hardware at Bombay, and in metals and ores, grain, pulse and flour, and liquors at Karachi. The decrease at Calcutta was due mainly to smaller arrivals of cotton manufactures, machinery and mill work, metals and ores, salt and cotton twist and yarn ; while there were large increases in railway plant and rolling stock, mineral oils, sugar and motor cars and motor cycles. Nearly the whole of India's imports of treasure are received at Bombay.

Exports of Indian produce advanced at Bombay by 16 per cent., at Calcutta by 9½ per cent. and at Karachi by 68 per cent. The only article which has contributed to the increase at Bombay is raw cotton, while tea, seeds, jute manufactures, grain, pulse and flour, and raw hides and

skins are responsible for the increase at Calcutta, and raw cotton, grain, pulse and flour, and seeds at Karachi.

The total value of the private coasting trade excluding treasure declined by Rs. 2·88 crores to Rs. 71·8 crores, both imports and exports sharing in the decline. Of the principal articles imported, raw cotton and rice, the former showed a rise and the latter a fall. Under exports the principal articles were cotton piece-goods, which record an increase, and cotton twist and yarn, and grain, pulse and flour, both of which record decreases.

FOREIGN TRADE

IMPORTS

The details of trade in the most important articles are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

Coal.—Imports of foreign coal again decreased by 246,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 1·14 crore in value. This was probably due to the growing popularity of oil, fuel and in some measures to Bengal's attempt to recapture the Bombay coal-market. The first shipment of the Calcutta coal combines arrived in the last month of the year and found ready buyers as the coal was of good quality and lower priced than Natal coal. Arrivals from the United Kingdom dwindled to a very low figure, and though Natal sent rather more than the preceding year the total was a long way below the 1921-1922 figure. On the other hand Portuguese East Africa increased its shipments considerably.

Dyeing and tanning substances.—The total value of the imports under this head declined slightly. Germany has virtually regained the place which before the war she occupied in this trade, her share in the total imports being 68 per cent. although the value of her shipments declined by Rs. 15·36 lakhs to Rs. 1·53 crore. The two most important articles under this head are aniline and alizarine dyes. Imports of aniline increased further in quantity by 1½ million lb. but fell in value by Rs. 7·56 lakhs owing to larger cheap supplies from Germany. Imports of alizarine improved by 650,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 6 lakhs in value owing to larger supplies from the United Kingdom. Arrivals from that country increased by 1¼ million lb. to 2 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 16 lakhs in value, while those from Germany decreased by 748,000 lb. to 1¾ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 4·67 lakhs to Rs. 13 lakhs in value.

Hardware.—A large variety of articles are included under this head such as agricultural implements, other implements and tools, builder's hardware, domestic hardware, enamelled ironware, gas mantles, lamps, safes, stoves, etc. The value of the total imports fell from Rs. 2·1 crores to Rs. 1·63 crore owing to smaller supplies from the United Kingdom,

Germany, the United States of America and Japan. The chief supplier is the United Kingdom, whose share in the total imports was 44 per cent. though the value of the imports from that country receded by Rs. 23 lakhs to Rs. 71·64 lakhs. Shipments from Germany also fell from Rs. 59 lakhs to Rs. 43 lakhs.

Machinery and Millwork.—The value of imports declined from Rs. 11·6 crores to Rs. 8·44 crores, owing mainly to the restricted demand for textile machinery, the most important item under this head. The mill industry in the Bombay Presidency had a very poor year, and it was not surprising to find a fall of Rs. 2·35 crores under textile machinery. The largest supplier of machinery and mill work is the United Kingdom, whose share in the total imports has fallen from 92 to 89·5 per cent.

Matches.—The total imports of matches again receded from 4,985,000 to 4,878,000 gross of boxes in quantity and from Rs. 70·17 to Rs. 53·21 lakhs in value owing to smaller arrivals of both safety and other sorts of matches from Japan. Imports of safety matches from Sweden and of other sorts from Sweden and Norway have increased both in quantity and value. Japan has at last lost pride of place, the value of her shipments having further fallen from Rs. 51 lakhs to Rs. 22 lakhs and her share in the total imports from 72 to 41 per cent. Sweden has now recaptured the lead by increasing the value of her consignments from Rs. 16·76 lakhs to Rs. 29·39 lakhs and her share in the total trade from 24 to 55 per cent.

Metals and Ores.—The most important item under this head is of course iron and steel, imports of which increased by 19 per cent. in quantity and 10 per cent. in value. The total quantity imported, nearly 313,000 tons, is the highest ever recorded, though the value, Rs. 6·7 crores, cannot compare with the Rs. 8·39 crores which Bombay paid for 192,000 tons in 1920-21. An analysis of the figures of the year under review show that it is a mistake to think that iron and steel have been dumped on India for the purpose of damaging her steel industry. The industry in the United Kingdom suffered from a disastrous slump in 1921. In the following year there was an improvement and in 1923 the United Kingdom regained her position as the chief exporting country. This she did by cutting prices to the bone in order to face Continental competition. She was assisted by the dislocation of the Ruhr industry resulting from the French occupation, but her recovery was mainly due to her own efforts, hard work and sound policy, and to her greater productive capacity. Consequently her exports in 1923 were only 10 per cent. below the pre-war figure. The improvement in brass and copper recorded last year was not maintained, imports of both the metals having fallen, the former by Rs. 7·65 lakhs and the latter by Rs. 12·55 lakhs.

Motor cars and motor cycles.—The total number of motor cars imported has again risen from 1,471 to 2,331 and the total value advanced from Rs. 59·52 lakhs to Rs. 72·29 lakhs. This supports last year's deduction that the glut is a thing of the past. Imports from the United States of America and Canada, which have dominated the Indian market owing to their low prices, increased by 186 and 406 in number and by Rs. 1·48 lakh and Rs. 6·87 lakhs in value. But it is worthy of note that the imports from the United Kingdom have also advanced by 210 to 424 in number and by Rs. 5·33 lakhs to Rs. 25·61 lakhs in value.

Oils.—Several records were established under this head. The gross arrivals of kerosene, foreign and Burma, amounted to 47 million gallons, a figure slightly higher than the previous best in 1919-20. Bombay has never before taken so much kerosene or so much petrol—1,200,000 gallons—from Burma. The figure for foreign fuel oils—52½ million gallons—is also easily a record. Ten years ago the figure was less than 3½ million gallons. The concurrent expansion of fuel oil imports and contraction of coal arrivals is due to the ever growing demands for the former by ships, railways and industrial concerns.

Postal Articles not Specified.—The specified articles are (*a*) jewellery, (*b*) precious stones, (*c*) gold and silver thread, (*d*) cigarettes and (*e*) cinematograph films, which are included under their approximate heads in the general imports. The value of the postal articles imported excluding these five decreased from Rs. 2·16 crores to Rs. 1·93 crore, of which imports from the United Kingdom were valued at Rs. 1·75 crore as against Rs. 1·97 crore in the previous year. The total number of parcels received was 361,834 as against 385,902 in the previous year. In addition dutiable articles were found and assessed in 117,357 letter packets as against 52,744 in the preceding year. The duty collected on articles imported by letter packets decreased further by Rs. 3·82 lakhs to Rs. 13·25 lakhs owing to smaller arrivals of diamonds. The total duty on parcels also fell slightly from Rs. 31·47 lakhs to Rs. 30·88 lakhs.

Railway plant and rolling-stock.—Imports under this head improved by Rs. 23·8 lakhs to Rs. 4·08 crores owing to larger shipments from the United Kingdom. The improvement was shared by all the sub-heads except carriages and wagons which recorded a decrease of Rs. 41·87 lakhs.

Sugar.—A very unsteady world market made sugar dealers cautious and imports have declined. Arrivals from Mauritius fell away from over 22 thousand to less than one thousand tons. Most of this sugar now goes to the United Kingdom as a result of the preference accorded to it. Java remained Bombay's chief supplier, and sent only 5,000 tons less than in the preceding year.

Tea.—The decline in the imports of foreign tea noticed last year was more than made good by larger arrivals from all the exporting countries, but there was a substantial decrease in the arrivals from Calcutta, which fell in value from Rs. 64·93 lakhs to Rs. 29·25 lakhs. Re-exports of foreign tea and exports of Indian tea expanded further, the former by Rs. 1·45 lakh to Rs. 2·69 lakhs and the latter by Rs. 96,000 to Rs. 35·28 lakhs in value, but the quantity of Indian tea exported contracted by 590,000 lbs. Persia, Mesopotamia, Arabia and the countries on the East Coast of Africa are almost entirely supplied with tea from Bombay.

Textiles.—

Cotton—raw.—Imports of raw cotton from foreign countries improved by 1,489 tons in quantity and Rs. 76·87 lakhs in value. Had it not been for arrivals from Kenya Colony, which increased from 5,412 tons to 9,634 tons in quantity and from Rs. 96·26 lakhs to Rs. 2·07 crores in value, there would have been a fall in the total imports, as there were practically no receipts from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Bombay's increasing importance as an entrepôt for foreign cotton is doubtless due to the growing importance of the East African crop, as most of the African cotton is re-exported, chiefly to Japan and the United Kingdom. The Indian mills have as yet practically no use for this fine cotton.

Cotton piece-goods.—The total value of the imports of cotton piece-goods (including fents) advanced by Rs. 3·88 crores to Rs. 15·66 crores. Nearly half the total was on account of coloured piece-goods and white and grey piece-goods contributed Rs. 3·49 crores and Rs. 4·51 crores respectively. Fents, which were mainly supplied by the United Kingdom, rose in value from Rs. 43·31 lakhs to Rs. 60 74 lakhs. The share of the United Kingdom in grey, white and coloured piece-goods was 27 per cent., 89 per cent. and 88 per cent. respectively. Under whites the principal varieties are—(1) mulls, (2) longcloth and shirtings, (3) nainsooks and (4) dhuties, saris and scarves, which were almost entirely supplied by the United Kingdom. Under coloured piece-goods the chief varieties are—(1) prints and chints, (2) saris and scarves, (3) cambrics, (4) shirtings and (5) unspecified descriptions. These were also mainly supplied by the United Kingdom. As regards grey cloth the improvement noticed last year has not been maintained, imports having fallen by Rs. 30·14 lakhs to Rs. 4·51 crores in value. Nevertheless Japan further improved her position as a great supplier of this kind of cloth, for her shipments were larger than in the preceding year and amounted to 67 per cent. of the total imports.

Cotton Yarn.—

From	Quantity in thousands of lb.		Value in lakhs of rupees.	
	1922-23	1923-24	1922-23	1923-24
United Kingdom	15,551	8,632	271	185
Japan	18,078	14,500	219	205
Other Countries	240	421	3	8

Imports in 1922-23 were abnormally high. The year under review recorded a decline of more than 10¼ million lb. in quantity and of Rs. 95 lakhs in value though the average price of imported yarn was considerably higher than the previous year's low figure, Japan has maintained her hold on 20s and 30s and in a material degree on 32s and 40s, but imports from that country declined by more than 3½ million lb. to nearly 15 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 13·5 lakhs to Rs. 2·05 crores in value. The earthquake in September 1923 temporarily paralysed her activities and the sudden increase in the prices of cotton and also in the cost of labour materially affected her output of yarn. The high cost of cotton also hampered the British yarn trade, and imports from the United Kingdom fell from 15½ to 8½ million lb. in quantity and from Rs. 2·71 crores to Rs. 1·85 crore in value. Finer counts and cops, an English speciality, moved very slowly. A noteworthy feature was the larger importations from China, whence arrivals increased by 60,000 lb. to 140,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 2·7 lakhs to Rs. 3·4 lakhs in value.

In the table given below the local production of yarn in the Bombay Presidency is compared with the imports from abroad. Of the output of local yarn the lower counts represent nearly 96 per cent.; the higher counts are still being imported in large quantities.

(The figures are shown in millions.)

	Yarn imported.			Yarn locally produced.		
	26s to 30s	31s and upwards.	Total yarn.	26s to 30s	31s and upwards.	Total yarn.
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1919-1920 ..	·50	4·75	6·56	39·27	15·62	440
1920-1921 ..	2·45	14·50	24·94	37·96	13·95	470
1921-1922 ..	3·42	15·48	31·18	39·75	14 87	493
1922-1923 ..	4 52	14·36	33·87	39 72	14·13	497
1923-1924 ..	·84	11 77	23 55	41·95	15·93	398

Silk.—Imports of raw silk decreased by 348,000 lb. to 1,149,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 19·71 lakhs to Rs. 92·75 lakhs in value owing to smaller shipments from all the supplying countries, *viz.*, China, Hongkong, Japan and Siam. But imports of silk yarn, noils and warps improved further by 43,000 lb. to 929,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 5·58 lakhs to Rs. 66·83 lakhs in value owing to larger arrivals from China, Italy and the United Kingdom. Shipments from Japan and France fell off.

Imports of both artificial silk yarn and of piece-goods of cotton and artificial silk have further improved, the former by Rs. 5·22 lakhs to Rs. 17·33 lakhs and the latter by Rs. 52·24 lakhs to Rs. 66·57 lakhs. Artificial silk yarn is chiefly supplied by the United Kingdom and piece-goods by the United Kingdom and Italy. Artificial silk is certainly growing in popularity.

Wool, raw and manufactured.—Imports of raw wool further advanced by Rs. 12·91 lakhs to Rs. 19·46 lakhs, owing chiefly to larger supplies from the United Kingdom and Australia. Supplies of yarn and knitting wool have also improved, as British shipments expanded considerably. Imports of piece-goods improved noticeably by Rs. 44·75 lakhs to Rs. 81·6 lakhs owing mainly to lower prices and larger business with the United Kingdom, which is the chief source of supply, and with Germany. Among the other woollen manufactures there were larger arrivals of blankets, hosiery and shawls; but imports of carpets and rugs again contracted owing to smaller shipments from Persia.

FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

EXPORTS

Articles were re-exported from Bombay to the value of 915 lakhs.

The destinations of these re-exports are shown in the following table :—

Countries.	1922-1923	1923-1924	Increase or decrease.
	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)
Mesopotamia	123·46	82·47	−40·99
Persia	107·99	88·61	−19·38
United Kingdom	249·85	229·93	−19·92
Arabia	113·06	103·29	−9·77

Countries.	1922-23	1923-24	Increase or decrease.
	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)
Aden	99·06	61·49	—37·57
Tanganyika Territory	15·44	12·79	— 2·65
Kenya Colony (formerly known as East African Protectorate)	62·55	47·98	—14·57
Other European Countries	43·32	51·23	+ 7·91
Japan	56·70	80·63	+23·93
Hongkong	19·53	18·77	— ·76
Ceylon	41·70	23·44	—18·26
Strait Settlements (including Labuan)	21·70	12·59	— 9·11
United States of America	16·78	13·42	— 3·36
Zanzibar and Pemba	29·59	21·51	— 8·08

Bombay is an important emporium for the foreign merchandise required by Persia, Mesopotamia, Arabia and East Africa and the principal articles normally re-exported are cotton manufatures, raw cotton and sugar. The value of cotton piece-goods re-exported decreased by Rs. 68 lakhs to Rs. 2·33 crores, to which grey piece-goods contributed Rs. 1·54 crore, white piece-goods Rs. 25·16 lakhs and coloured piece-goods Rs. 54·2 lakhs. Re-exports of sugar also decreased by 25,000 tons to 15,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 1·04 crore to Rs. 64·28 lakhs in value owing to smaller shipments to the United Kingdom, Persia, Mesopotamia, Arabia and East Africa. On the other hand, re-exports of raw cotton, mostly African or Uganda produce, increased further by 1,400 tons to 6,400 tons in quantity and by Rs. 30·26 lakhs to Rs. 1·31 crore in value owing to larger shipments to Japan and France.

INDIAN PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES

The total value of exports of Indian produce and manufactures exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 15 crores and rose to an unprecedented figure of Rs. 106 crores. This abnormal rise was entirely due to larger shipments and very high prices of raw cotton, the great staple of Bombay's export trade and all the other principal items except seeds record decreases. These items are noticed separately in the succeeding paragraphs.

Grain, pluse and flour.—Exports of rice decreased from 23,000 to 214,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 19·79 lakhs to Rs. 33·34 lakhs in value. Shipments of wheat flour declined from 22,000 to 18,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 69·33 lakhs to Rs. 45·65 lakhs in value. Exports of wheat, on the other hand, increased from less than 1,000 tons to 22,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 2·55 lakhs to Rs. 33·95 lakhs in value owing to larger shipments to the United Kingdom. Exports of other food grains declined, but shipments of pulse, especially gram and lentils, again improved.

Hides and skins (raw and tanned).—Exports of hides, both raw and tanned, have further increased, the former by 354 tons to 586 tons in quantity and by Rs. 4·24 lakhs to Rs. 8·46 lakhs in value and the latter by 93 tons to 1,190 tons in quantity and by Rs. 5·41 lakhs to Rs. 47·48 lakhs in value. The increase in raw hides was due to abnormal demands from Italy, whose takings were 529 tons valued at Rs. 7·47 lakhs as against 4 tons only of the value of Rs. 5,000 in the previous year. Germany took smaller quantities and shipments to the United Kingdom were insignificant. The advance in tanned hides is due to larger shipments to the United Kingdom, the chief market for this article, and to Mesopotamia and Kenya Colony.

Metals and ores.—The most important item under this head is manganese ore, the total exports of which from the whole of British India amounted to 740,000 tons as against 789,000 tons in the previous year. Shipments from Bengal expanded by 16,000 tons, but Bombay's shipment show a contraction of 59,000 tons.

Seeds.—Seeds rank second to cotton, but far behind among Bombay's exports. In the year under review their value advanced by Rs. 16·37 lakhs, but there was a decline of 42,000 tons in quantity. This was more than accounted for by the United Kingdom's reduced takings of cotton seed, due apparently to prices being too high. Linseed prices were on the whole steady and there was a good demand for shipment. Sesamum was in short supply, and high prices restricted exports. Despatches of rape improved, and so did those of castor, despite a marked rise in prices. Groundnuts shipments contracted considerably.

Textiles.—

Cotton, raw.—What cotton has meant to Bombay in the year under review can best be indicated by a few bald figures. No less than 528,000 tons of Indian cotton were sent abroad, a figure 39,000 tons higher than the previous year's record. This cotton was worth Rs. 75·5 crores, or Rs. 17·36 crores more than the previous year's record value. Rs. 75·5 crores represented as much as 71 per cent. of the total value of all exports of Indian produce and manufactures from Bombay, and nearly 22 per cent. of the all India exports. If manufactured and waste

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cotton be added in, then 80 per cent. of the value of the Bombay exports was derived from this one great staple.

The agricultural conditions for the Indian cotton crop of 1923-24 were not as good as those of 1922-23; for though the acreage sown increased by about 6 per cent., the gross yield in both years is estimated to have been 5,075,000 bales. This is a high figure, but not as high as that of 1914-15. The American crop was again disappointing. The Government report in July 1923 was not up to expectations, and this, together with an unusually low carry over of the old crop, at once led to a scramble to buy and a rise in prices. The August report was again unfavourable, and though the September report was more re-assuring the following two months again brought bad reports and a wild rise in prices. However the bulls went too far; the textile trade could not afford to buy at such high prices, and the market weakened from December down to the end of March. The same general trend of prices was visible in the Bombay market. For the first few months of the fiscal year prices tended to weaken especially at the beginning of August when monsoon prospects were good. The earthquake in Japan only affected the market for a brief period at the beginning of September. Thereafter world factors began to prevail and a rise ensued, until at the end of November Broach cotton jumped to Rs. 715 a candy. The excitement was such that the East India Cotton Association had to suspend all dealings for a week or more, and then the fall in American eased the crisis. Subsequently prices fell away, until at the end of March they were not much higher than they had been 12 months before. While speculation is no doubt responsible for sudden and excessive price movements, it is an undoubted fact that the statistical position is very strong. The depredations of the boll weevil and the high price of labour prevent the United States of America producing anything approaching a normal pre-war crop, with the result that the world production in 1922-23 is estimated to have amounted to only 69 per cent. of the 1913-14 production. The carry over in America was, as already mentioned, abnormally low, and the carry over of the Indian crop at the end of the last cotton season—August-September 1923—was also low. It will probably be lower still in 1924, despite the decrease in local consumption due to the Bombay mill strike which lasted two months in the first quarter of 1924. Consequently Bombay can look forward to many years of good demand for her cotton.

Japan of course remained India's best customer for cotton, and took 289,000 tons valued at Rs. 39·63 crores. Both figures are records. Shipments to China, on the other hand, receded. The United Kingdom and Continental Europe, with the exception of Germany and Austria, increased their demands, Italy in particular. Lancashire shows a distinct tendency to import Indian cotton for consumption, and it is interesting

to find over 4,000 tons going to the chief producing country in the world, the United States of America, presumably for mixing and the manufacture of cheap goods.

Cotton manufactures.—Since 1917 China has been practically a closed market for Indian piece-goods owing mainly to the expansion of the indigenous textile industry and to the rigour of Japanese competition. The chief markets now are Persia, Mesopotamia, Arabia, Egypt and countries in East and South Africa. The total exports rose by 5¼ million yards to 126¼ million yards in quantity but fell by Rs. 51·68 lakhs to Rs. 4·27 crores in value despite the rise in the raw material. Coloured piece-goods represented 74 per cent. and greys 25 per cent. of the total value. The largest shipments of coloured piece-goods were made to Mesopotamia and Persia, though the latter country took smaller quantities than in the previous year. Mesopotamia and Portuguese East Africa were again the largest buyers of grey cloth and both increased their takings.

The following figures indicate more clearly the changes in the trade :—

Exports of piece-goods
(In lakhs of yards)

	Grey.		Coloured.	
	Indian.	Foreign.	Indian.	Foreign.
1916-17 ..	1,551	266	769	443
1917-18 ..	743	325	830	311
1918-19 ..	512	400	636	392
1919-20 ..	725	359	869	238
1920-21 ..	473	320	660	131
1921-22 ..	238	469	1,024	109
1922-23 ..	305	512	898	126
1923-24 ..	330	404	1,263	107

It will be seen that the exports of Indian coloured cloth have improved considerably and those of grey cloth to a small extent while re-exports of foreign cloth, both grey and coloured have fallen.

Cotton yarn.—Cotton yarn also proved extremely disappointing to the mills for the greater part of the year. Owing to the competition of cheap Japanese yarns the demand for Indian yarns was poor and stocks accumulated. Exports fell further by 18 million lb. to nearly 38 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 1·78 crore to Rs. 3·6 crores in value. Shipments to Hongkong fell from 38 to 20 million lb. and from Rs. 3·55 crores to

Rs. 1·81 crore and those to China, not long ago Bombay's best market, fell from over 2 million lb. to less than two-thirds of a million lb. and from Rs. 22·43 lakhs to Rs. 6·02 lakhs in value. The influx into China of Japanese yarns of coarser counts is killing Bombay's export market in that country. Despatches to the United Kingdom, Egypt and Syria increased, and Turkey in Europe took Rs. 3·83 lakhs' worth of yarns after two years' total abstinence.

Wool, raw.—The increase in the exports of raw wool reported last year has not been maintained, the total exports having fallen by nearly 10 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 89·39 lakhs in value owing mainly to smaller shipments to the United Kingdom. Nevertheless 94 per cent. of the total exports were taken by that country. Exports to the United States of America increased further by Rs. 5 lakhs and there were small shipments to Germany and France.

TRADE ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES

The total value of the trade with the British Empire dropped further by 5 per cent. owing to declines from Rs. 52 crores to Rs. 51 crores in imports and from Rs. 29 crores to Rs. 27 crores in exports. The largest trade is with the United Kingdom, but there was a further fall of 2 per cent. in the share of that country due to smaller imports. The total share of countries outside the British Empire increased from 57 per cent. to 62 per cent. as a result of larger trade with France, Italy and Spain in Europe, and Japan in Asia. Italy's advance is specially noticeable. The share of the United States of America again dropped slightly, while there was little change in the trade with Africa.

Under imports the United Kingdom figure has dropped by nearly Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 44 crores, owing mainly to smaller importations of cotton spinning and weaving machinery, cotton yarns and coal, while there were substantial increases in the arrivals of cotton and woollen piece-goods and iron and steel. Imports from other British Possessions also declined by Rs. 61 lakhs to Rs. 7 crores. Imports from foreign countries in Europe advanced by Rs. 1·36 crore to nearly Rs. 16 crores. Owing to unsettled economic conditions imports from Germany have fallen by Rs. 38 lakhs to Rs. 6·66 crores, smaller supplies, coming forward, of machinery and millwork, iron and steel, aluminium circles, aniline dyes and hardware.

Among the foreign countries in Asia, Japan continues to occupy the first place, but her despatches have declined by Rs. 17·69 lakhs to Rs. 8·46 crores. Owing to the terrible earthquake in September 1923 there was a lull in her trade for a short time and consequently shipments of all articles from that country except grey piece-goods declined. Imports from China increased by Rs. 66·81 lakhs to Rs. 2·72 crores owing to larger consignments of tea and silk piece-goods.

On the export side Japan necessarily occupies the first place, and her share in the total exports has again risen from 33 per cent. to 35 per cent. owing to record shipments and higher values of raw cotton. The United Kingdom comes next with a percentage share of 13·45 as against 13·71 in the previous year. Exports to the United Kingdom have increased by Rs. 1·49 crore to Rs. 15·5 crores owing chiefly to larger shipments of raw cotton and seeds, while shipments of raw wool have decreased. Among other countries the shares of Italy and France have increased, while those of Germany and China have decreased. America's share has risen from 1·78 per cent. to 2·11 per cent. owing to larger shipments of raw cotton and raw wool.

Treasure.—In the year under review the balance of trade in merchandise was again heavily in India's favour and was in large measure liquidated by the importation of gold and silver. The private importations of treasure, however, fell short of the record figure of the previous year by Rs. 11 crores and amounted to Rs. 48 crores, but the sale of £ 2 million gold by the Government of India presumably accounts for nearly Rs. 3 crores of the drop. Imports of gold fell by Rs. 12·35 crores to Rs. 27·69 crores but arrivals of silver advanced by Rs. 85·88 lakhs. The value of gold bullion decreased by Rs. 8·54 crores to Rs. 20·7 crores owing to smaller shipments from the United Kingdom and France, while there were new importations of Rs. 3·31 crores and Rs. 10 lakhs respectively from Natal and Western Australia. Imports of sovereigns also fell by Rs. 3·79 crores to Rs. 6·12 crores owing to smaller shipments from the United Kingdom and Western Australia. Larger arrivals of bar silver from the United States of America account for the increase in the value of silver. Imports of the Government of India rupees show a small increase of Rs. 11 lakhs, but other silver coins dropped by Rs. 2·46 crores owing to smaller arrivals from Mesopotamia, Tanganyika Territory and other places.

Exports of gold on private account were insignificant and fell further by Rs. 5·64 lakhs to Rs. 4·94 lakhs. On the other hand shipments of silver expanded further by Rs. 42·88 lakhs to Rs. 2·53 crores owing to larger shipments of bullion to China and of Government of India rupees to Mauritius.

There were no imports of gold on Government account, but silver increased by Rs. 9·29 lakhs to Rs. 32·18 lakhs solely on account of larger arrivals of Government of India rupees from Aden and Mesopotamia.

Imports of currency notes on private account increased by Rs. 15·14 lakhs to Rs. 1·16 crore owing to larger arrivals from Mauritius and Other Native States in Arabia. Imports on Government account fell by Rs. 21·69 lakhs to Rs. 7·95 lakhs owing to smaller arrivals from Mesopotamia and Kenya Colony. Exports of currency notes both on private

and Government account declined, the former by Rs. 2·3 lakhs and the latter by Rs. 7·5 lakhs.

SHIPPING

The total number of vessels, steam and sailing, engaged in the foreign trade again decreased from 1,523 to 1,421, but the total net tonnage increased by 20,528 tons to 4,442,715. There were 1,142 steamers of the burthen of 4,408,784 as against 1,239 of 4,386,241 tons in the previous year. The average tonnage of steamers entering the port with cargo increased from 3,593 to 3,812. This is a striking advance from the year 1913-14 when the average was only 3,009 tons. The sailing vessels consisted almost entirely of "Native Craft" engaged in trade with ports in the Persian Gulf, Arabia and East Africa.

COASTING TRADE

The coasting trade excluding treasure between the chief port—Bombay—and other ports in India grouped by Provinces is summarised in the following statement :—

(In lakhs of rupees)

	Imports.			Exports.		
	1922-1923	1923-1924	Increase or decrease.	1922-1923	1923-1924	Increase or decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
British Ports within the Presidency	1,37	1,30	7	2,59	2,69	+ 10
Indian Ports not British within the Presidency ..	10,47	11,19	+ 72	5,98	4,80	− 1,18
British Ports in other Presidencies	26,30	23,22	− 3,08	26,78	27,27	+ 49
Indian Ports not British in other Presidencies ..	64	82	+ 18	54	50	− 4
Grand Total ..	38,78	36,53	−2,25	35,89	35,26	− 63

Imports from coast ports into Bombay consist almost entirely of articles of Indian produce intended partly for consumption in the Presidency and partly for re-export to foreign countries.

The principal articles received at Bombay from coast ports are raw cotton and grain, pulse and flour, imports of which amounted to 64 per cent. of the total imports. Arrivals of raw cotton advanced further by Rs. 1·42 crore to Rs. 16·18 crores owing to larger shipments from Sind, Cutch and the Southern Maratha Country *viâ* Goa, but imports of grain, pluse and flour again fell heavily from Rs. 10·31 crores to Rs. 7·23 crores as a result of smaller shipments of rice from Burma and wheat from Sind. Among other articles there were larger imports of jute

manufactures from Bengal, spices from Madras, British ports within the Presidency and Travancore, raw wool from Sind and coal from Bengal; but smaller supplies of kerosene oil from Burma, seeds from Madras, Burma and Kathiawar, tea from Bengal and teakwood from Burma.

Indian produce formed nearly 80 per cent. and foreign produce 20 per cent. The principal article of Indian produce shipped is cotton piece-goods, exports of which advanced further by Rs. 67·93 lakhs to Rs. 16·43 crores owing to larger shipments to Bengal and Sind. On the other hand exports of raw cotton decreased by Rs. 10·3 lakhs to Rs. 91·99 lakhs owing to smaller shipments to Goa and Pondicherry, cotton twist and yarn by Rs. 43·85 lakhs to Rs. 4·23 crores as there were smaller demands from all the provinces except Bengal, and grain, pulse and flour by Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 2·86 crores as a result of smaller supplies of rice to Kathiawar. Re-exports of foreign merchandise also fell by Rs. 58·6 lakhs to Rs. 7·07 crores owing to smaller shipments of cotton piece-goods to Bengal, Madras and Kathiawar, cotton twist and yarn to Madras and sugar to Madras, Kathiawar and Goa.

SUBORDINATE PORTS OF THE PRESIDENCY

FOREIGN TRADE

The foreign trade of the subordinate ports of the Presidency is quite insignificant. Imports were valued at Rs. 4·31 lakhs, showing an increase of Rs. 1·06 lakh due to larger arrivals of dates from Mesopotamia, the only important article of the import trade. On the other hand exports, which consisted of fodder and firewood only, fell from Rs. 17,901 to Rs. 1,938 only owing to the cessation of exports of grain and cocoanut oil.

COASTING TRADE

The total value of the coasting trade of the subordinate ports declined further by Rs. 18·19 lakhs to Rs. 7·78 crores, both imports and exports being responsible for the decline. Imports fell by Rs. 5·68 lakhs to Rs. 4·28 crores and exports by Rs. 12·52 lakhs to Rs. 3·5 crores. Nearly half of the total trade of the subordinate ports is with the chief port—Bombay.

THE TRADE OF SIND

The trade returns of the year 1923-24 as compared with those of the previous year were decidedly encouraging. Taken as a whole the year was one of progress and the statistics of both exports and imports showed that the port was steadily recovering from the after-effects of the war. Trade balance was in favour of the port by 13 crores 61 lakhs as compared with an adverse balance of 1 crore 33 lakhs in the previous year. The

entire maritime trade of Sind reached the record figure of 89 crores 81 lakhs, showing an increase of 18 crores 27 lakhs or 26 per cent. over the previous year and of 59 per cent. over that of 1913-14. The coasting trade accounted for 26 per cent. and the foreign trade for 74 per cent. The latter was confined, as usual, to the chief port Karachi and rose by 15 crores 1 lakh to 66 crores 57 lakhs.

CHIEF PORT—KARACHI

The export trade exhibited a remarkable expansion both in value and volume. The total value aggregated over 40 crores 9 lakhs, the highest on record, showing an increase of 58 per cent. over the figures of the previous year. Over half of this increase was due to heavy shipments of cotton, the price of which ruled very high. The export of wheat also rose from 218,438 tons in quantity and Rs. 3 crores 40 lakhs in value to 605,206 tons and 8 crores 63 lakhs.

The import trade did not show marked variations. The figures were almost on a level with those of the previous year. The total value amounted to Rs. 26 crores 48 lakhs, indicating an increase of 1 per cent. Cotton pecie-goods, the principal article of import contributed Rs. 8 crores 47 lakhs to this value.

Notes on the changes in the value and volume of important articles in the trade are given below :—

IMPORTS

Chemicals, Drugs and Medicines.—The imports showed a further increase of Rs. 1·82 lakhs, the figures for the past two years being Rs. 30·72 lakhs and Rs. 32·54 lakhs respectively. Of the more important chemicals, imports of soda ash, which is used mostly for the cleansing of linen, rose from 84,247 cwt. valued at Rs. 6·44 lakhs to 115,491 cwt. valued at Rs. 8·65 lakhs, the United Kingdom being the main source of supply.

Coal.—Imports of coal which totalled 89,188 tons in quantity and Rs. 25·91 lakhs in value were less than those of last year by 2,067 tons and Rs. 5·54 lakhs. This deficit was more than made up by a heavy increase in imports of Bengal coal which was received in larger quantities on account of its cheapness, the figures for the past two years being 35,860 tons and 68,489 tons, respectively.

The decrease in supplies from the United Kingdom despite the large output of 1923 was due to the fact that heavy purchases of English coal were made by European countries. Portuguese East African coal was imported in large quantities as it was found less expensive and of better quality than Indian Coal.

Cotton twist and yarn.—The increase of 305,158 lbs. in quantity and Rs. 4·50 lakhs in value followed a decrease in the previous year.

Cotton yarns and Manufactures.—Taken as a whole, the cotton trade was devoid of any very striking features. Owing to the heavy stocks in

hand, the outlook at the beginning of the year was not very hopeful, but with the keener demand and regular enquiries from up-country markets which arose later in the year, the prospects improved considerably, and on the aggregate the business transacted was slightly in excess of the previous year's figures. The total value of cotton yarn and manufactures increased from 8 crores 42 lakhs to 8 crores 73 lakhs.

Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments.—Imports declined in value by Rs. 1·35 lakhs to Rs. 44·08 lakhs. The decrease was most marked in receipts of builders' hardware (— Rs. 3·14 lakhs) chiefly hinges and steel butts from Sweden. A contraction also took place in imports of implements and tools, other than agricultural implements and tools (— Rs. 1·23 lakhs) from Germany and the United States of America. The decrease in the above articles was partly set off by an increase under cutlery (+ Rs. 93,709) chiefly from Germany and metal lamps (+ Rs. 1·22 lakhs) from Germany and the United States of America.

Machinery.—The total value of imports under this head rose considerably from Rs. 39·59 lakhs to Rs. 102·23 lakhs, an increase of 72 per cent.

The oil-engines imported from the United Kingdom for local and up-country use accounted for the heavy increase of Rs. 20·67 lakhs under prime-movers. Large consignments of electrical machinery came during the year for the electric lighting installation at Hyderabad (Sind), and the improvement in value was chiefly noticeable in imports of control and switchgear from the United Kingdom. Mining machinery, which was mostly intended for the Punjab, came almost entirely from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It is interesting to note that Rs. 88,000 worth of match-making machinery was imported during the year from Germany for the Shahdara factory, the first match factory in the Punjab.

The number of sewing machines imported during the year rose from 14,954 to 16,303 and their value from Rs. 11·75 lakhs to Rs. 14·73 lakhs. Of these the United Kingdom, the main source of supply, sent 12,965 machines valued at Rs. 12·60 lakhs as against 12,136 machines valued at Rs. 9·98 lakhs. Supplies from Germany also showed an advance, 3,301 machines valued at Rs. 2·11 lakhs having been received during the year as against 2,747 valued at Rs. 1·70 lakhs in 1922-23.

Metals.—After the activity shown in the previous year, imports of iron and steel declined by 15 per cent. in quantity and 11 per cent. in value. The total imports amounted to 68,487 tons valued at Rs. 1 crore 49 lakhs as compared with 81,318 tons valued at Rs. 1 crore 67 lakhs.

The contraction was chiefly due to the fact that owing to the accumulation of large stocks, prices in India were lower than those ruling in Europe, and merchants hesitated to send large orders. The tightness in the money market also tended to restrict business.

The share of the United Kingdom in the imports of iron and steel improved considerably from 23 to 35 per cent. in quantity and from 32 to 42 per cent. in value. This remarkable expansion in the British steel trade was to a considerable extent due to the large output of steel and to the feeling of confidence created in the commercial world by the comparative stabilization of prices after the unparalleled variations in recent years.

Oils.—There was an expansion of Rs. 14·69 lakhs or 18 per cent. in the aggregate value of imports under this head, the figures for the past two years being Rs. 78·80 lakhs and Rs. 93·49 lakhs, respectively. Large quantities of mineral oils received during the year accounted for the increase.

Imports of kerosene oil, which represented nearly 63 per cent. of the total quantity of mineral oils imported during the year, showed a rise of 1,562,355 gallons under bulk oil and 328,194 gallons under case oil, the entire quantity coming from the United States of America. Large quantities went to the Punjab in spite of the production of kerosene oil in that province.

Imports of fuel oil also recorded a heavy increase of 2,473,652 gallons in quantity and Rs. 7·76 lakhs in value, due to the ever increasing consumption of this oil for use as bunkers as well as in oil machinery. Of the total quantity, viz., 5,313,938 gallons, imported during the year 3,456,495 gallons came from Persia, 1,521,294 gallons from the Straits Settlements and 336,149 gallons from Dutch Borneo. The heavy decline of 619,532 gallons or 61 per cent. in the quantity of lubricating oils occurred entirely in receipts from the United Kingdom as a result of the North-Western Railway having placed their orders with the Attock Oil Co. The quantity imported from the United States of America, on the other hand, rose by 112,701 gallons to 352,122 gallons.

Piece-goods.—Imports of cotton piece-goods recorded an advance of 1 per cent. in volume and 3 per cent. in value, the net result of increased receipts of coloured cloth set off by a decrease under grey and white goods. Grey goods exhibited a decline of no less than 13,920,178 yards or 56 per cent. in volume and Rs. 53·30 lakhs or 57 per cent. in value as compared with the previous year, while the white piece-goods decreased by 7 per cent. in yardage and 11 per cent. in value. The deficiency in imports of grey and white piece-goods was, however, balanced by a heavy increase of coloured goods to the extent of 26,639,977 yards or 56 per cent., in quantity and Rs. 132·22 lakhs or 61 per cent. in value.

Silk.—As explained in two previous reports, the silk trade is gradually declining year by year, the local traders not finding it profitable to import largely on account of the high import duty. The value of imports during the year dwindled to Rs. 4 lakhs from Rs. 5·64 lakhs last year, the contraction having occurred in receipts of piece-goods from China and Hongkong.

Sugar.—The increase in imports of sugar anticipated after the slump in the previous year did not materialise. The quantity (96,723 tons) imported during the year was only 348 tons in excess of that received in the previous year. High prices ruling in Java during the latter part of the year restricted business, and some consignments actually purchased for Karachi were diverted to other ports. The consumption of sugar during the year was, however, greater than in 1922-23 as that though the stocks in hand at the commencement of the year and the quantities imported were practically the same in both years, the balance remaining in hand on 31st March 1924 was about 4,400 tons as against about 20,000 tons on the same date in 1923. The demand would have been greater still, but for the increased consumption of Indian sugar and jaggery which were produced in larger quantities and were used in preference to foreign sugar on account of their cheapness.

Woollen goods.—Imports of yarn and knitting wool, mainly for the Amritsar market, declined by 19,148 lbs. in quantity and Rs. 4·13 lakhs in value. The decrease occurred solely in receipts from Germany which sent very large quantities in the previous year. As was the case last year, a good business was done in woollen piece-goods owing to the old high-priced stocks having been disposed of. Imports, which aggregated 1,941,063 yards valued at Rs. 40·71 lakhs, exhibited a further expansion of 144 per cent. in yardage and 126 per cent. in value as compared with 1922-23.

Tea.—Imports of tea suffered a set-back, the quantity having fallen from 1,193,027 lbs. to 895,713 lbs. and the value from Rs. 7·66 lakhs to Rs. 6·89 lakhs. The decrease followed a heavy increase in the previous year, and was restricted to receipts of green tea from China. Owing to the accumulation of large stocks in the consuming markets at the frontier, only 516,841 lbs. of this variety were imported during the year as against 863,309 lbs. last year.

Vehicles (excluding locomotives, etc., for railways).—After two years of depression, imports of vehicles rose by Rs. 17·56 lakhs or 98 per cent. to Rs. 35·56 lakhs in value. The expansion was to a great extent due to the receipts of a large number of motor cars especially small light cars which were greatly in demand for both local and up-country use.

The number of motor cars rose from 228 to 595, while motor cycles from 91 to 163.

EXPORTS

Grain, Pulse and Flour.—Exports of the commodities included under this group, being entirely free from the restrictions which were in force at one time or another during the past 9 years, showed a notable expansion, increasing in value from Rs. 568 lakhs to Rs. 1,268 lakhs and in quantity from 351,995 tons to no less than 945,384 tons.

There was an unusually heavy export of barley amounting to no less than 159,938 tons valued at Rs. 169 lakhs, or an increase of 145,930 tons in quantity and Rs. 153·08 lakhs in value as compared with the previous year. The figures were also in excess of those for 1913-14 by 25 per cent. in quantity and 57 per cent. in value. The United Kingdom took the largest amount, viz., 81,504 tons as against 9,233 tons, Germany 26,181 tons against only 49 tons, Belgium 17,850 tons against 49 tons and Egypt " for orders " 23,982 tons.

Wheat.—Of the total outturn of 3,848,000 tons of wheat from Sind and the Punjab, 605,206 tons valued at Rs. 862·65 lakhs were exported to foreign countries during the year as against 218,438 tons and Rs. 339·61 lakhs last year, showing an increase of 177 per cent. in quantity and 154 per cent. in value. The quantity exported during the year, though the highest recorded in the quinquennium, was less than that shipped in 1912-13 by no less than 716,171 tons or 54 per cent.

Raw Cotton.—The exports during the year reached the highest figure on record. No less than 92,198 tons valued at Rs. 1,484·02 lakhs were exported, showing an increase of 39 per cent. in quantity and 111 per cent. in value as compared with the previous year and 23 per cent. in quantity and 165 per cent. in value as compared with the pre-war year 1913-14. This difference between the percentages of increase in quantity and in value gives an idea of the high price-level reached during the year. One result was that cotton again secured the leading position among the principal exports, and further improved its share in the aggregate value from 32 per cent. in 1922-23 to 40 per cent. in 1923-24.

Raw Wool.—The quantity of raw wool exported during the year declined from 25,723,173 lbs. to 18,743,710 lbs. or by 27 per cent. and the value from Rs. 192·72 lakhs to Rs. 153·89 lakhs or by 20 per cent. Increased consumption by Indian factories, which made continuous purchases throughout the year at good prices, checked exports to foreign countries. The bulk of the shipments as usual went to the United Kingdom.

Seeds.—Exports of seeds showed a further expansion, the quantity having risen by 15 per cent. and the value by 10 per cent. chiefly owing to unusually heavy shipments of rape-seed during the year, a further record being established by this commodity. Its export which amounted to 260,266 tons valued at Rs. 566·65 lakhs showed an excess of 16 per cent. in quantity and value over the figures of 1922-23 which was itself a record year. Exports of other seeds totalled 37,947 tons, of which the greater portion, viz., 35,666 tons consisted of cotton seed.

Hides and Skins, Raw.—The total exports of raw hides were 1,414 tons valued at Rs. 15·34 lakhs. They fell by 133 tons in quantity, but rose by Rs. 1·51 lakhs in value. The increase in the value was partly due to high prices consequent on a keen demand by Indian tanners and

partly to Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom having purchased superior qualities of hides for the civil population during the year. The position as regards the trade in raw skins was also the same as that in raw hides; the quantity showed a shortage of 414 tons while the value exhibited an increase of Rs. 1·32 lakhs. Exports consisted, chiefly of goat skins, and the decrease in the quantity resulted from reduced shipments to the United States of America, which took 2,573 tons as against 2,741 tons last year.

Metallic ores, etc.—The only exports of ores from this port consist of chromite (chrome iron ore) a mineral product of Baluchistan. Shipments during the year under report fell from 26,389 tons valued at Rs. 7·92 lakhs to 18,617 tons valued at Rs. 5·59 lakhs.

Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.—The total value of articles exported under this head rose slightly to Rs. 33·45 lakhs. Of the principal commodities falling under this group, exports of cotton goods and painters' materials showed an increase. Exports of painters' materials consisted solely of turpentine, and the expansion was due to the development of the new industry recently started in the Punjab for the manufacture of this article which competes favourably with the American product. The first shipments of about 140 cwt. valued at Rs. 10,000 were made to foreign countries last year, and during the year under report exports rose to 3,582 cwt. valued at Rs. 2·31 lakhs.

Foreign merchandise re-exported.—The value of articles of foreign merchandise re-exported during the year under report declined by Rs. 12·83 lakhs or 5 per cent. The articles responsible for this contraction were dried fruits, raw wool, raw cotton and cotton piece-goods. Shipments of dried fruits were mainly raisins to the United Kingdom, and they dwindled from 2,402 tons valued at Rs. 33·96 lakhs to the comparatively low figure of 711 tons valued at Rs. 7·54 lakhs owing to a poor demand from that country.

Exports of raw wool fell by 3,830,871 lbs. and Rs. 21·83 lakhs to 8,495,146 lbs. valued at Rs. 61·44 lakhs.

COASTING TRADE

A further improvement was recorded in the coasting trade during the year, the aggregate value increasing from Rs. 1,948 lakhs in 1922-23 to Rs. 2,324 lakhs or by 19 per cent. Both imports and exports shared in the improvement, the value of the former rising from Rs. 1,088½ lakhs to Rs. 1,194 lakhs and of the latter from Rs. 860 lakhs to Rs. 1,130 lakhs.

SUBORDINATE PORTS

Keti Bandar and Sirganda.—The total value of the entire trade of these two ports rose from Rs. 17·24 lakhs to Rs. 19·15 lakhs during the year under report. Keti Bandar contributed 64 per cent. and Sirganda 36 per cent. to the total value.

SHIPPING

Foreign Trade.—The total number of foreign vessels that entered the port of Sind increased from 1,058 to 1,189 and tonnage from 1,834,487 to 2,134,107. The number of steamers increased from 645 to 750 and their tonnage from 1,796,586 to 2,092,164 tons. Sailing vessels rose from 413 to 439 and the tonnage from 37,901 to 41,943. Important increases were recorded in arrivals of steamers from Italy (+ 17 steamers) due to heavy shipments of wheat, cotton and rapeseed. Arrivals from Natal, on the other hand, showed a decrease of 8 steamers owing to reduced imports of coal. The heavy increase under clearances of steamers occurred chiefly in departures to the United Kingdom (+ 63 steamers) due to heavy shipments of wheat, seeds and cotton, and to Germany (+ 20 steamers) due to increased shipments of seeds and cotton. The increase in the number of sailing vessels occurred chiefly in arrivals from the Gulf ports. As regards tonnage, the average tonnage per steamer rose from 2,785 to 2,790 tons and that of sailing vessels from 91 to 96 tons.

Coasting Trade.—The shipping employed in the coasting trade exhibited a further notable improvement, both steamers and country craft contributing to the increase.

ADEN

The total value of private Sea-borne and Land Trade increased from Rs. 14 crores 50 lakhs to 14 crores 78 lakhs. The value of imports, exclusive of treasure, decreased from 7 crores 2 lakhs to 7 crores. Articles of food, drink and tobacco increased from Rs. 2 crores 15 lakhs to 2 crores 19 lakhs, coffee, dates, ghee and tea being mainly responsible for the increase. Decreases were noticed in grain and pulse, spices, sugar, tobacco, unmanufactured cigarettes and tobacco manufactured.

The total value of raw materials and produce increased from 1 crore 65 lakhs to 1 crore 77 lakhs. Coal increased in quantity by 11,386 tons and in value by Rs. 4 lakhs, due mainly to larger consignments of South African Coal. The value of Fuel Oil totalled Rs. 29 lakhs. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured decreased from 3 crores 4 lakhs to 2 crores 90 lakhs, the decrease being noticeable under apparel, chemicals, cutlery, dyeing and tanning substances, earthenware, machinery and millwork, motor cars, etc.

The total value of exports, exclusive of treasure, amounted to Rs. 5 crores 45 lakhs, as compared with 5 crores 69 lakhs in the previous year, showing a decrease of 24 lakhs. The export of articles of food, drink and tobacco rose from Rs. 2 crores 9 lakhs to 2 crores 13 lakhs. The increases were noticed under coffee, ghee, spices, sugar and salt; while the decreases were under grain and pulse, jowari, dates, unmanufactured tobacco. Raw materials and produce decreased from Rs. 1

crore 33 lakhs to 1 crore 13 lakhs. Manufactured articles fell from Rs. 2 crores 20 lakhs to 2 crores 15 lakhs. The decrease was chiefly seen under cotton twist and yarn by nearly 2 lakhs and grey and dyed goods by Rs. 5 lakhs.

The total imports of treasure increased by Rs. 12,63,000 and exports by Rs. 24,50,000.

The total sea-borne trade during 1923-24, exclusive of treasure, amounted to Rs. 12 crores 45 lakhs of which India's share was 2 crores 57 lakhs.

The number of vessels that entered the port increased from 1,122 to 1,220, the tonnage from 3,472,727 to 4,103,319.

SHIPPING OFFICES

In addition to the shipping, paying off and discharging of ships' crews, the Shipping Office has a variety of miscellaneous duties to perform. These include the settlement of disputes between ship-masters and seamen, the administration of the estates of deceased seamen of the Mercantile Marine, the disposal of distressed British and Indian seamen and the inspection of rations and water provided for the crews. The settlement of claims of seamen or their dependants in case of accident or death and the receipt and disposal of dead seamen's effects and the registration of seamen also come within the scope of the Shipping Master.

During the year under report the Bombay Shipping Office signed on 36,739 seamen of many nationalities and discharged 38,389. About 10,000 Goanese were signed and 10,500 were discharged, almost all in the Steward's Department. Over 23,000 other Indians were signed and 24,000 discharged. Deck hands were both Hindus and Mahomedans but those in the engine room were exclusively Mahomedans. The total expenditure was Rs. 71,000.

The Karachi Shipping Office shipped 465 seamen and discharged 845. The expenditure was Rs. 1,440.

The Aden Shipping Office engaged and discharged 1,056 seamen and 84 distressed seamen were repatriated.

LABOUR OFFICE

During the year ending 31st March 1924 the Labour Office completed an enquiry into agricultural wages in the Bombay Presidency. The Report on this enquiry was published in May 1924.

A general census of Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton Mill Industry during August 1923 was undertaken, and the results were compiled. The special report on this census will be published during the year 1924-25.

An enquiry into the standard of living of the middle classes in Bombay was continued during the year, and a number of family budgets collected. The results will be published as a special report.

A new index number for the cost of living of the European Community in Bombay City was started.

A special enquiry into rentals in Bombay City was carried out and the results published in the *Labour Gazette* for October 1924.

An Industrial Disputes Bill was drafted for the Government of Bombay. This Bill was subsequently taken over by the Government of India.

Industrial disputes numbered 86, involving 242,929 workers directly and 18,944 workers indirectly, and resulting in a loss of 10,237,823 working days. The large number of working days lost was due to the Bonus Dispute, which occurred in January, February and March 1924, and involved 81 mills in Bombay City. On 31st March 1924 there were 10 Trade Unions with a membership of 27,813 persons in Bombay City, 7 Unions with a membership of 14,085 persons in Ahmedabad and 6 Unions with a membership of 8,404 persons in the rest of the Presidency : giving a total for the whole Presidency of 23 Unions and 50,302 members. The cost of the Department for 1923-24 was Rs. 1,08,000.

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

THE Public Works Department has long been an important feature of the British administration in India. Its history dates from 1854 when it first came to be organized on a definite basis in succession to the old military boards, constituted mainly for the carrying out of military works.

For administrative purposes the work of the Department is divided into two sections: (i) Roads and Buildings and (ii) Irrigation.

During the year the Roads and Buildings Branch executed works the total expenditure on which exceeded Rs. 2 crores 10 lakhs. The expenditure on buildings connected with Imperial Services amounted to over Rs. 10 lakhs, which included Rs. 2½ lakhs on Salt, 1⅕ lakhs on Post Offices and about 2 lakhs on Telegraphs.

On the Provincial side the works for Commissioners and District Officers totalled about Rs. 10⅜ lakhs. Three flats on the Rocky Hill site, Malabar Hill, Bombay, were purchased from Development Department to accommodate Government officers. The construction of 13 bungalows for Government officers at Kopri, Thana, was in progress, and those at Ahmedabad and the new Revenue Offices at Karachi completed.

Under Administration of Justice the works cost nearly Rs. 4½ lakhs and under Jails and Convict Settlements over 11 lakhs. The Central Jail at Hindalgi, which provides accommodation for 700 prisoners was completed and handed over to the Jail Department.

The expenditure under the head "Police" was over Rs. 27¼ lakhs, chiefly on housing schemes for the force in the various parts of the Presidency.

Under "Medical" the construction of new works, additions and alterations to existing buildings and repairs cost nearly Rs. 19½ lakhs.

Dapuri Workshops.—Much time and thought has been devoted to the shops and the production of work has been greatly increased while many improvements have been introduced tending to economy and an increase in the standard of workmanship and efficiency. These workshops have been recognised as Central Workshops for all Departments. The Agricultural Engineer's Workshop has been closed down and the work transferred to Dapuri with an annual saving of Rs. 30,000. Old machinery is taken in from the Districts, overhauled and kept ready to send out and this side of the work at Dapuri is most valuable. Useful work has been done for the Irrigation Department in evolving new gates for distributary

inlets and outlets with simple means of rating. Forty apprentices are always undergoing training to become skilled workmen and graduates from the Engineering College gain good practical experience.

ELECTRICAL WORKS

The expenditure under "Electrical works" was over Rs. 8 lakhs, the most important being installations in the Royal Institute of Science and Workshop, Bombay, the New Out-patients Department, J. J. Hospital, the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Poona, Police residential quarters in Bombay, and Government bungalows in Thana and Ahmedabad.

COMMUNICATIONS

Expenditure under this head amounted to nearly Rs. 48¼ lakhs, including Rs. 17 lakhs on new works and additions and alterations to existing works.

ARBORICULTURE

Nurseries were maintained at various places and the planting, watering and protection of road-side trees continued to receive careful attention. About 26,000 trees were planted during the year along Provincial and Local Fund Roads in charge of the Public Works Department.

MISCELLANEOUS

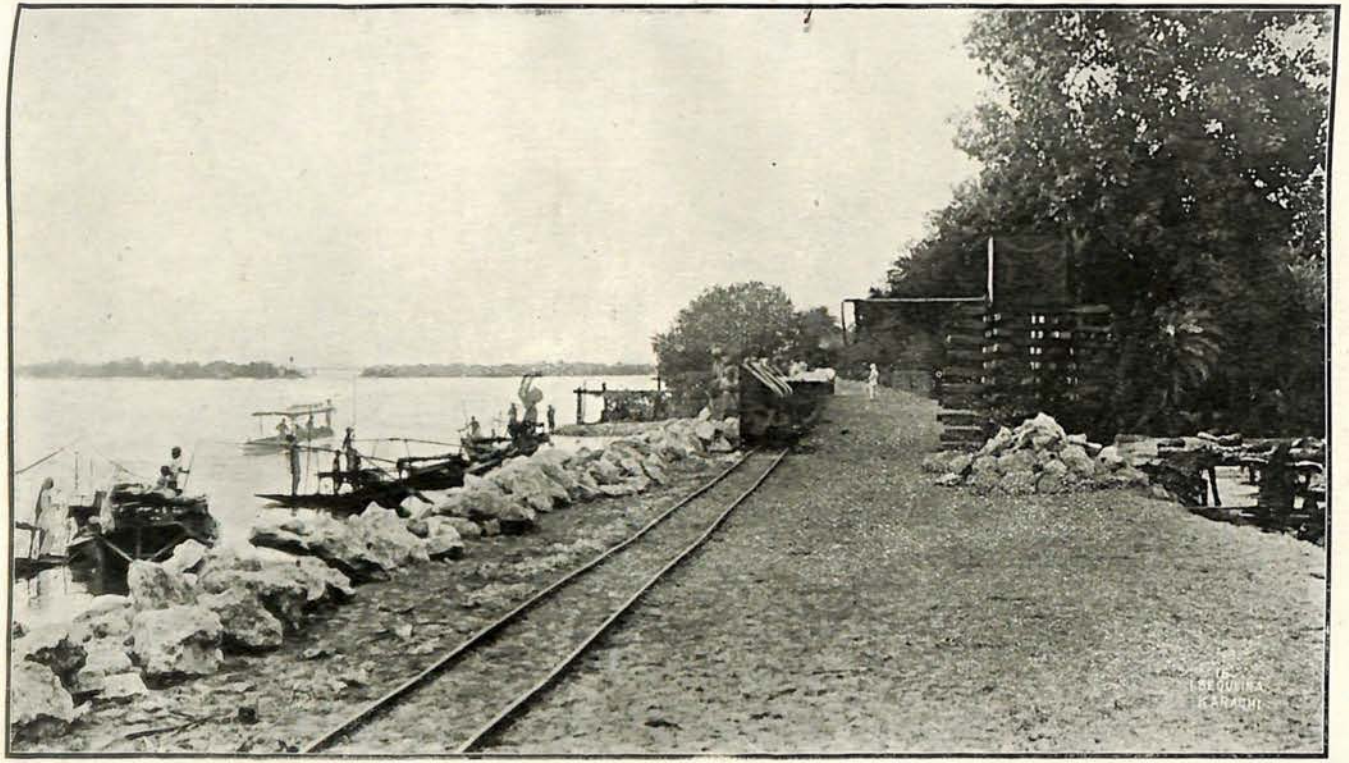
Over Rs. 8 lakhs were spent on various water-supply works and repairs particularly with reference to Pandharpur, Nasik Distillery, Yeravda, Poona City and Sukkur. No regular famine works were opened during the year but ordinary public works were started to alleviate distress owing to scarcity conditions prevailing in parts of the Dharwar and Bijapur districts.

IRRIGATION

GENERAL

Expenditure on Irrigation Works in the Presidency during the year was Rs. 166¼ lakhs, an increase of Rs. 27½ lakhs over the previous year. Rs. 100¼ lakhs were spent in Sind and the balance in the Deccan and Gujarat.

Capital works fall under two categories (*i*) Productive and (*ii*) Unproductive. The total receipts and expenditure on works for which capital accounts are kept amounted to Rs. 78¾ lakhs and Rs. 91 lakhs in Sind, and Rs. 24½ lakhs and Rs. 59 lakhs in Deccan and Gujarat. Comparing receipts with expenditure there was a loss of Rs. 12¼ lakhs and Rs. 34½ lakhs in Sind, and in the Deccan and Gujarat respectively.



Lloyd Barrage Circle: Left Guide Bank. Pitching in progress. Narrow gauge railway distributing stone. Barrage launch lying off bank.

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The loss in Sind was due to the heavy expenditure incurred on the Lloyd Barrage works. The total area irrigated by capital works showed an increase of over 1¼ lakhs of acres over the average. In Sind the area rose from 3,218,276 to 3,353,429 acres but in the Deccan and Gujarat it fell from 274,000 to 267,000 acres.

Other works are financed from ordinary revenues and capital accounts under this head are not kept. The area under irrigation by these works amounted to 73,837 acres in Sind and 150,000 acres in the Deccan and Gujarat. During the year expenditure exceeded receipts by nearly Rs. 6½ lakhs.

The irrigation work in charge of the Public Works Department is divided into two distinct spheres, (1) Sind and (2) the Deccan and Gujarat. In Sind the canals, with a few exceptions, are inundation canals fed from the river Indus and are dependent on the natural level of water in the river. With a low river the canals receive but a scanty supply while a fairly high river of prolonged duration permits of widespread cultivation. Irrigation is, however, confined to the period of four months only, *i.e.*, June to September. During the greater portion of the year little cultivation is possible on the areas served by these canals. The Lloyd Barrage scheme is intended to remedy this defect. By constructing a weir across the Indus it will be possible to maintain the water level in the canals above it at a sufficiently high level to give flow irrigation all the year round. In the Deccan and Gujarat the cultivation depends upon the rainfall and the tanks and canals are useful for the purpose of growing more valuable crops or to counteract, when necessary, the evil effects of a deficient or irregular rainfall. The irrigation schemes in this part of the country involve the construction of storage reservoirs.

SIND

The inundation of 1923 was on the whole a fairly good one, although the river was low until the middle of August. The river reached the "fair irrigating level" of 13 feet on the Bukkur Gauge on the 20th of August and remained at that level for 16 days. On the Kotri gauge, the "fair irrigating level" of 17 feet was first recorded on the 29th June and was maintained for a period of 76 days as compared with 69 days, the average of the previous three years.

Indus Right Bank Division.—The Desert Canal was opened on the 1st of June and ceased to flow on the 12th of November. On account of the low river rotations had to be resorted to on the Begari canal and on the Choi branch and practically all crops on the former canal were matured with the help of late rains. The Sukkur Canal worked fairly well.

The other canals in the Division, *viz.* the Ghar, Sattah, Sind, Pritchard, Pinyari and Kalri, worked satisfactorily. Owing to early fall in the river

rotations had to be resorted to on the Western Nara which helped to bring the early sown crops to maturity. The Dhand which feeds the Mahiwah silted up badly on account of the active erosion of the river opposite to its head. This coupled with the fall in the river, caused a rapid decrease in the discharge of the canal and all the standing kharif crops withered.

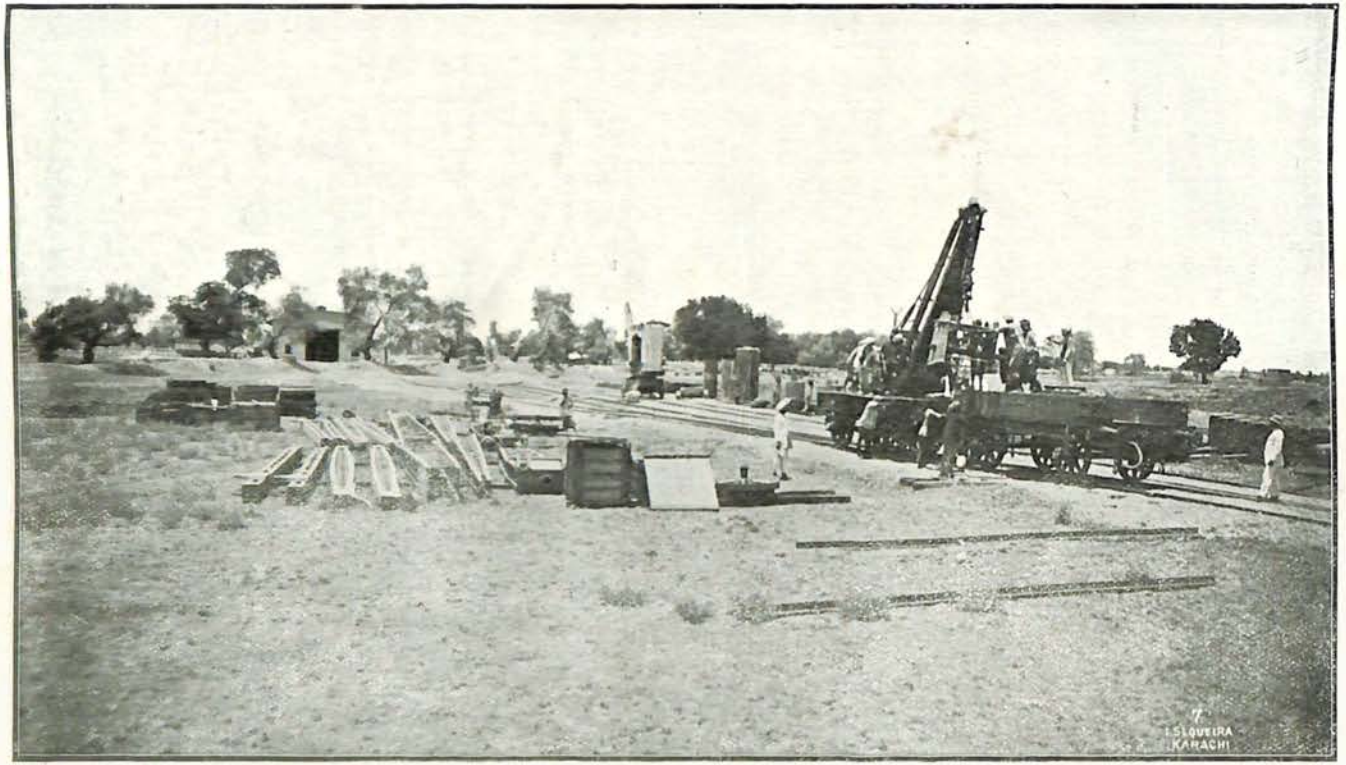
Indus Left Bank Division.—The canals in this Division fall into two groups, *viz.* (*a*) the Eastern Nara system and (*b*) the canals taking off direct from the Indus. The first group includes the Jamrao, Mithrao, Khipro, Thar and Hiral canals all of which except the Khipro canal are perennial. They are fed by the Nara Supply channel, which takes off from the river Indus at Rohri. Though the head of the supply channel was heavily silted between November and May the area cultivated during the year was almost up to the average. The Jamrao Canal irrigated over 226,000 acres of which 128,000 acres were under cotton, as against the record figure of 102,000 in the previous year. On the Mithrao canal the area cultivated was nearly 103,000 acres.

The Nasrat, Dad, Naulakhi, Fuleli and Hasanali canals fall into the second category. They are inundation canals. There was deficiency of water in the Nasrat, Dad and Naulakhi canals and consequently rotations had to be resorted to. The Fuleli and Hasanali canals worked satisfactorily. The area irrigated by the Fuleli canal was fully up to the average, being about 400,000 acres. All the canals in the Hyderabad Canals District worked satisfactorily except the tails of Sarfraz and Nasir where the deficiency was relieved by resort to internal rotations. The total cultivation in the district was about 263,000 acres, the same as in the previous year.

Indus River Commission.—The Indus River Commission is entrusted with the entire management and control of the river Indus in the province of Sind. It has to carry out the necessary surveys and to construct and maintain the river bunds, which protect the country from the high floods in the river. All the bunds stood the water pressure well during the year.

The Indus River Commission also arranged for the accurate gauging of the river for velocity, silt and discharge observations. The results of these observations are printed in the Indus River Commission Records, which are published from time to time. The total expenditure on works, under the direct control of the Commission amounted to nearly Rs. 1¾ lakhs.

The Lloyd Barrage Scheme at Sukkur.—The close contour survey which was started in 1921 was completed on the right bank of the river Indus and satisfactory progress was made in the left bank area. The work of construction of the barrage and canals was commenced from the 1st of July under the direction of a Chief Engineer. The recruitment of the administrative, executive and subordinate establishment required for



Lloyd Barrage Circle : Machinery Dump outside store shed. Part of 1½-ton and 10-ton steel derricks in foreground. 10-ton hand crane unloading. 5-ton steam crane and boilers for pile drivers in background.

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immediate needs was completed and satisfactory progress was made in regard to the purchase of tools and plant and machinery, collection of materials, building of quarters for staff and inspection purposes, preparation of the final alignment and design of the canals and branches, laying of railway lines, survey and lay-out of quarries and quarry sidings and construction of various other preliminary works essential in connection with the inception of such a vast scheme. Guide banks were constructed on both sides of the river upstream of the barrage site at Sukkur. The total expenditure on works including special tools and plant during the year amounted to nearly Rs. 23½ lakhs.

DECCAN AND GUJARAT

NORTHERN DIVISION

The only important canal system in this Division is the Hathmati and Khari Cut, the other irrigation works being small tanks dependent on local rains. Owing to deficient rainfall there was hardly any flow on these canals, the area cultivated being 79 acres as against 14,000 acres, the average of the previous three years. The Wangroli, Tranza-Nagrama, Savli and Saiat tanks were also empty.

CENTRAL DIVISION

The Ekruk tank, the Jamda, and the Krishna canals are the main sources of irrigation in this Division. The Ekruk tank provides water not only for irrigation but also for the town of Sholapur, the mills and the G. I. P. Railway. As it is not able to meet all the demands made on it, the necessity for supplementing the present supply and separating the divergent interests has been recognised and a project for constructing an additional storage reservoir is under preparation.

DECCAN IRRIGATION DIVISION

The largest irrigation works in the Presidency proper are in this division. The Nira Left Bank Canal, which irrigates an extremely precarious tract in the Poona District, is one of the pioneer and most remunerative irrigation works in the Deccan. It is fed by Lake Whiting, a reservoir constructed on the Yelvandi river at Bhatghar, some thirty miles south of Poona. It is here that the Lloyd Dam, one of the largest masonry dams in the world, is being constructed. The Left Bank Canal is one hundred miles long and irrigated an area of about 77,000 acres during the year.

The Mutha Canal.—The system consists of two canals, one on the right and the other on the left bank of the Mutha river. Both take off direct from lake Fife, a storage reservoir of a capacity of about 4,000

million cubic feet on the Mutha river at Khadakvasla. The Mutha canals furnish the cantonment and the city of Poona with their supply of water. Besides irrigating ordinary crops, they have greatly facilitated the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, fodder and sugarcane, within easy reach of a large city and important military centre. The system irrigated over 18,000 acres.

The Mashwad tank is formed by an earthern dam constructed across the Man river and has a storage capacity of 2,600 million cubic feet. It irrigated about 11,000 acres of land in the Sholapur District during the year.

The Godaveri Canals.—This system is the first of the large irrigation works constructed in the Central Deccan for the protection of areas liable to famine. It was completed in 1915-16 at a cost of little over 1 crore of rupees. The storage reservoir named Lake Beale is on the Darna river, a tributary of the Godaveri. The Right and Left Bank Canals take off from a pick-up weir at Nandur Madmeshwar, on the Godaveri river. The Right Bank Canal is 69 miles long and serves the Niphad and Sinnar talukas of the Nasik District and the Kopergaon taluka of the Ahmednagar District. The Left Bank canal is 48 miles long and irrigates the Niphad and Yeola talukas of the Nasik district and the Kopergaon taluka of the Ahmednagar District. The development of irrigation on these canals is proceeding fully up to expectations and the cultivation of the valuable sugarcane crop is also steadily advancing. The total area irrigated exceeded 51,000 acres of which 7,600 acres were under sugarcane.

The Girna and Kadwa River Works are two smaller irrigation systems in operation in this division. They irrigated in all about 10,500 acres.

Irrigation Works under construction.—There are two large irrigation works under construction in the Deccan. One of these, the Pravara river works, is designed to irrigate some of the lands most affected by famine in the Ahmednagar Collectorate. The other called the Nira Right Bank Canal passes through the northern tracts of the Satara Collectorate and the Phaltan State to irrigate lands in the Malsiras, Sangola and Pandharpur talukas of the Sholapur Collectorate, which are very liable to famine.

The Pravara River Works system comprises (1) a storage reservoir named Lake Arthur Hill on the Pravara river at Bhandardara, 29 miles by road from Igatpuri, (2) a pick-up weir at Ojhar and (3) two canals taking off from the weir, one on the left and the other on the right bank of the river, 48 and 33 miles long respectively. The masonry dam of the storage reservoir has now almost reached the designed height of 270 feet. Satisfactory progress was made during the year. The canals have been excavated and the whole scheme will be completed in the working season of 1925-26. The cost will be about 1½ crores of rupees.

Lloyd Barrage Circle : Quarry 17 Rohri, South face. Removing overburden for use as pitching stone, to clear beds for large cut stone. 2′ 0″ gauge railway removing stone.

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The canals have already been opened for irrigation and as the work progresses, irrigation is being extended. The total area irrigated by these canals during the year was about 39,000 acres of which about 5,000 acres were under sugarcane.

The Nira Right Bank Canal.—This work will, when completed, be the largest in the Deccan. The project comprises the construction of a large dam at Bhatghar—the Lloyd Dam referred to above, which will replace the existing dam and provide a supply to both the old Left Bank Canal and the new Right Bank Canal. The Right Bank Canal will end near Mahod in the Sholapur Collectorate and will be about 110 miles long.

The progress during the year was satisfactory and it is expected that the dam and the first 90 miles of the canal will be completed by the end of the year 1926. The estimated cost of the scheme is 491 lakhs. The storage provided by the Lloyd Dam will not suffice for the full development of irrigation in the Nira Valley and consequently an amplified scheme, which provides for widening and remodelling the Left Bank Canal and for building a new Dam at Vir, costing about Rs. 127½ lakhs, is under consideration of Government.

Investigation Work.—Scientific investigations in connection with numerous important problems, relating to irrigation in the Deccan, are being conducted by the Executive Engineer, Special Irrigation District, and his staff in laboratories, experimental farms, private fields and at stations on the canals. The main problem has been to reclaim lands rendered unfit for cultivation through water-logging and salt efflorescence and to prevent the occurrence of these evils especially in areas where sugarcane is grown. It has now been proved that the worst affected lands can be completely regenerated at a comparatively small cost by a system of permanent drains combined, in the first few years, with the restoration of the soil by means of surface washing, green manuring, etc. Three such reclamation schemes aggregating an area of 368 acres have been completed. An important departure recently introduced is the execution of such schemes on co-operative lines, whereby the owners of lands combine to finance the scheme and Government arrange for the necessary investigation and execution. A Co-operative Society on the Mutha Right Bank Canal was formed during the year for financing the Manjri drainage scheme. The question of utilising drainage water for irrigation purposes, so far as its salt contents will permit, is also being considered. Extensive subsoil surveys have been made and are in progress. Investigations were also made with regard to the value of sewage effluent as a manure for various crops with satisfactory results. An up-to-date hydraulic testing station has been installed where metres, modules, etc., used on irrigation channels are tested.

Other small Irrigation Works.—There are numerous bandharas on weirs built across streams to raise the level of water sufficiently high to command the lands to be irrigated. There are about 300 of these works in the Nasik Collectorate and there is also a large number in the West Khandesh district. The supply of water from these bandharas was inadequate and cultivation suffered thereby. Over Rs. 34,000 were spent on improvements and repairs of these works during the year.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

The only important irrigation works in this Division are the Gokak Canal in Belgaum and the Dharma Canal in the Dharwar district. Owing to the total absence of rain in the rabi season, full storage up to the crest of the temporary wall was not obtained in the Gokak reservoir and rabi irrigation had to be stopped towards the end of January 1924. There was a good supply of water in the Dharma canal. The total area irrigated by capital works was over 17,500 acres as against 19,000 acres, the average of the previous three years.

RAILWAYS

The total length of railway open for traffic in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) was 5,555 miles including 42 miles of line newly opened, viz. :—

	Miles.
(i) Kurla-Chembur Railway	1·24
(ii) Dholka-Koth-Gangad Railway	11·25
(iii) Jambur-Prachi Road Railway	7·64
(iv) Sirla-Shahdadkote-Dodapur Railway	21·67

On nine other schemes work was in progress, the most important being :—

(i) Conversion of the Wankaner Morvi Section 2′ 6″ gauge into metre gauge ;

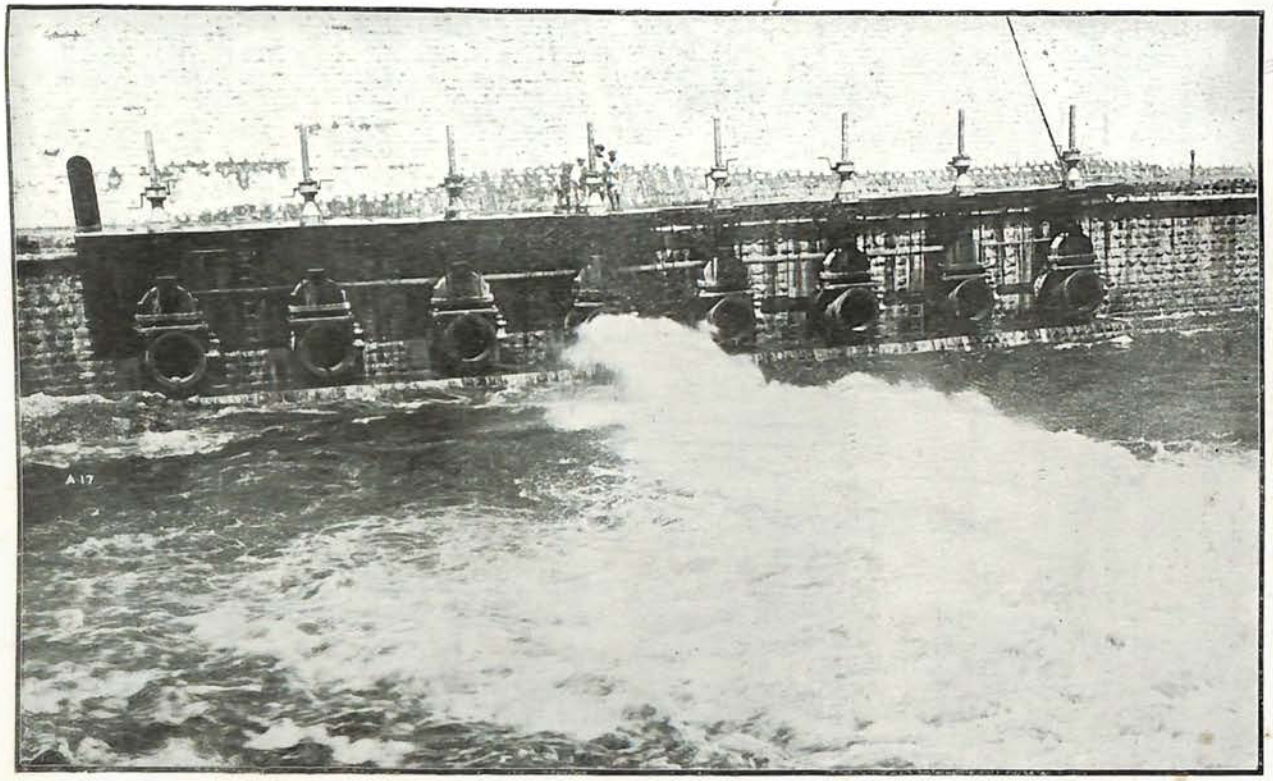
(ii) Harbour Branch Extension (overhead connection) to Victoria Terminus, 2·12 miles, double line, 5′ 6″ gauge ;

(iii) Dholka-Dhandhuka Railway metre gauge (remaining section, viz., Koth-Gangad-Dhandhuka, 25 miles) ;

(iv) Kalamba-Jheria Extension of Billimoria-Kalamba Railway, 2′ 6″ gauge, 2·33 miles ; and

(v) Prachi Road-Una Railway metre gauge, 15·50 miles.

Eight surveys were completed or in progress during the year.



Lake Whiting District. The Lloyd Dam. 4 ft. diam. outlet sluices, Down Stream face.

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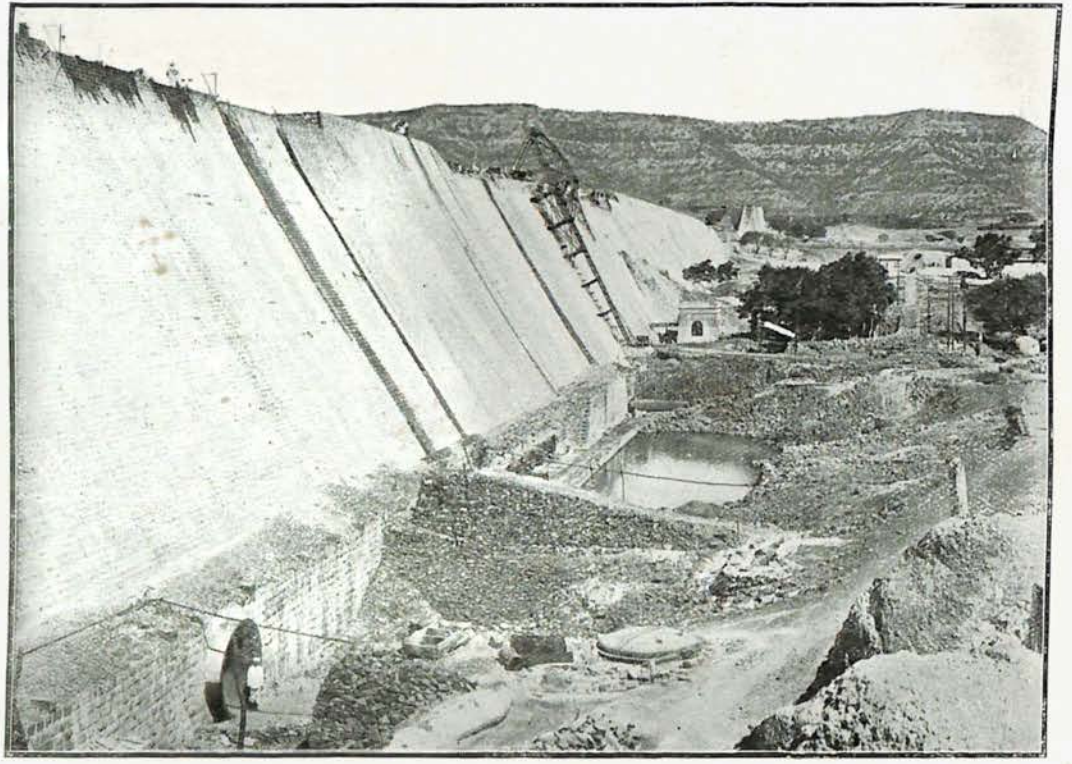

Lloyd Dam showing outlet pipes.

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CHAPTER VIII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

FOLLOWING on 1922, the record year of low death-rate, the year under report showed in comparison a high mortality. The increase, however (from 452,581 deaths to 496,244) was mainly the result of epidemics, plague, cholera, measles and small-pox which carried off over 50,000 people or 3½ times the number in 1922. Mortality from diseases other than epidemics was no worse than the average for the past two or three years. The most noticeable increase was under the heading " other causes " which include most of the ill-defined diseases under which the deaths of infants are recorded. The great increase in the number of births (61,140) would account for such increase in mortality. For increase in births means increase in that section of the population most likely to die.

The number of births was 681,910 and the birth-rate has now recovered from the severe set-back of the influenza epidemic of 1918 which carried off so many young women. Excluding Bombay City and Sind, the birth-rate was 39·91 and for Sind 22·19. For rural areas the birth-rate was 41·57 and for urban areas 29·89. The highest birth-rate was in Pathardi Petha in Ahmednagar District (81·24) and the next highest (67·66) in Nandgaon in Nasik District; whereas in South Salsette the figure was only 17·90 and in Poona City taluka 16·26. Forty-four towns returned birth-rates exceeding 30. In Bombay City the births recorded (20,664) were equivalent to a birth-rate of 17·99.

Of the births 354,890 were males and 327,020 females.

The recorded death-rate for the whole Presidency worked out at 25·89, the death-rates for rural and urban areas in the Presidency as a whole being 24·87 and 30·11. The highest death-rates were returned by Sholapur, Dharwar and Broach, and the lowest by Bombay Suburban and Panch Mahals. There were 108,912 deaths among infants under 12 months, a ratio of 159·76 per thousand registered births against 169·10 in 1922. Throughout the Presidency mortality amongst infants is greatest in the first month of life.

Tables giving the number of deaths arranged according to causes which appear in the annual report of the Director of Public Health show that those classed as " fevers " form by far the largest class. " Other causes " and respiratory diseases are the next in importance. Roughly one-sixth of the deaths under " fever " were due to malaria but the report suggests that malaria is responsible for a greater number of deaths than were shown by the figures. Excluding Sind, the malaria death-rate was 0·90.

Some figures from the Annual Sanitary Report for 1923 are given below :—

Among the civil European population of 19,247, 318 births and 232 deaths were recorded as against 316 and 268 in 1922. The calculated birth-rate per mille for 1923 was 16·52 and the death-rate 12·05.

Anglo-Indians numbered 10,221, and 222 births and 218 deaths were registered against 182 and 211 in 1922. The birth and death ratios per mille were 21·72 and 21·33 respectively in 1923.

Among the civil Indian population—19,165,614—681,190 births were registered—an increase of 61,140 over the figure for 1922 and of 26,575 over the decennial mean. The birth-rate suffered a severe set-back by the influenza pandemic of 1918 deleting as it did the younger women more especially. This set-back in births has all but recovered. The birth-rate was 35·58 against 32·39 in 1922. The rates recorded in other parts of India are :—

Bengal	.. 29·9	United Provinces	.. 36·04
Madras	.. 33·1	Punjab	.. 43·16
Bihar and Orissa	.. 37·02	Central Provinces	.. 45·63

For every 100 females 108·52 males were born. Still-births numbered 11,221 against 10,809 in 1922.

Four hundred ninety-six thousand two hundred and forty-four deaths were registered against 452,581 in 1922 and 689,072 the decennial mean. 108·51 males died for every 100 females. The death-rate was 25·89 per mille against 23·61 in 1922 and 35·95 the decennial mean. For other parts of India, the death-rates recorded are as follows :—

Madras	.. 22·2	Punjab	.. 30·94
Bengal	.. 25·5	United Provinces	.. 23·37
Bihar and Orissa	.. 25·04	Central Provinces	.. 30·53

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 9·69.

The infant mortality rate for the Presidency was 159·76 per 1,000 live births as against 169·10 in 1922. The male and female rates were 166·89 and 151·93 respectively, as compared with 176·53 and 161·01 in the previous year.

In Bombay City the birth and death rates were 17·99 and 32·74, the infant mortality rate being 413·91 compared with 405·16 in 1922.

The male and female death-rates among Hindus were 28·34 and 28·31 per mille, among Mahomedans 17·53 and 18·50, among Parsis 21·29 and 21·08, among Christians 17·94 and 19·47 and among Jains 15·87 and 17·62 respectively.

Deaths among all Indians totalled 496,244, Cholera being responsible for 9,221, Small-pox for 2,811, Plague for 33,741, Fevers for 196,231, Dysentery and Diarrhœa for 22,238 and Respiratory diseases for 84,334.

Chart showing total deaths and deaths by causes, etc., is attached.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES

Influenza as a factor in causing death has steadily diminished since 1918, when the estimated number of deaths was 1,041,481. In 1923 less than 1,000 deaths were returned as being due to this cause.

Cholera.—The number of deaths from this disease was 9,221 against 2,768 in 1922, and 12,886 the average for ten years. It is pointed out that the epidemics of 1900, 1906, 1912 and 1919 were of great severity. All were years of abnormal monsoon. Movements of the people during pilgrimages provided the means of spreading the disease. "Cholera," says the Director of Public Health, "is all but preventible and if it were possible to stamp it out before the season arrives, the scourge would be very considerably modified." It is pointed out that Trimbak, a popular centre of pilgrimage in the Nasik District, as well as Nasik City itself, enjoyed immunity, attributable to a good piped water supply, regularly sterilised, and to good general sanitary measures.

Plague.—Following on four years of comparatively low plague incidence, the year 1923 showed a recrudescence, as was forecasted by the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India in his report for 1921. During the year there were 33,741 plague deaths, equal to a death-rate per thousand of 1·76 or four times the figure for 1922. Dharwar and Belgaum are the chief plague centres in the Presidency year after year, and these districts, together with Satara, contributed two-thirds of the plague mortality. In Satara town practically 31 per thousand of the population died of plague. Belgaum town, however, the head-quarter of the district and division, a centre of secondary education and holding a weekly bazaar and therefore presenting multiple chances of getting infected from without, had only 21 deaths in 1923. These beneficial results were attributed to the systematic rat campaign and, says the Report, "Belgaum may be cited as one more place demonstrating the efficiency of a properly and intelligently carried out trapping campaign in keeping the place practically free from plague, though surrounded by infected places and exposed to re-introduction of the infection of imported cases".

Small-pox.—Deaths from small-pox numbered 2,811 as compared with 1,170 in 1922. Further particulars of the incidence of this disease will be found under "Vaccination" in this Chapter.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

On an average over 2½ million patients are treated every year in the dispensaries and hospitals of the Presidency which are maintained out

of public, local or municipal funds, or receive aid from Government. The total number of institutions open on 31st December 1923 was 785 as compared with 782 in 1922.

The total number of patients treated was 2,560,000 as compared with 2,549,000 in the previous year, an increase of 11,000 or 0·5 per cent. Of the total treated 73,000 were in-patients and 2,487,000 were out-patients.

Of the indoor patients treated 44,917 were cured, 8,862 were relieved, 7,186 were discharged otherwise and 6,153 died. The ratio of deaths per cent. to the total treated was 8·4 as compared with 8·6 in the previous year.

The number of beds available was 6,596 against 6,717 the daily average number of patients occupying them being 4,035·4 as compared with 3,415·6 in the previous year. The reduction in the number of beds was mainly due to rearrangements at the Maratha and Arthur Road Hospitals, Bombay. The average daily attendance of out-patients was 27,275·2 against 24,764·9.

The total number of in-door and out-door patients treated at private non-aided institutions was 1,644,000 as compared with 1,400,000 treated in 1922.

The total number of patients treated at female hospitals and dispensaries rose from 88,794 to 102,100 in 1923.

During the year over 100,000 surgical operations were performed.

For some time past the overcrowding of the Grant Medical College and allied hospitals has given rise to serious uneasiness, and during the last two years the inadequacy of the clinical material available for the number of students concerned attracted the attention of the General Medical Council of Great Britain. This body, having repeatedly brought the matter to notice, last year pointed out that if steps were not immediately taken to improve the conditions they would be unable to continue to recognise the medical degrees of the Bombay University. Apart from the serious effect this would have had on our graduates proceeding to England and elsewhere outside India it would have reacted most seriously on the reputation of the Bombay Medical College relative to other Indian institutions which might be recognised, and it was felt that urgent measures should be taken to relieve the congestion. The first measure was the utilisation of the Municipal Maternity Homes for practical midwifery teaching, and the next was to admit students to the Gokuldas Tejpal Hospital for medical and surgical work. This involved a very extensive recasting of the general arrangements of the hospital, together with the addition of common rooms for staff and students, and it is hoped that the result will be a marked expansion not only in size of the hospital but in the scope of work. A distinguished honorary staff was appointed, and Government also sanctioned some paid appointments which were necessary for teaching purposes.

The practice of employing private medical practitioners on the teaching staff of the Poona and Ahmedabad medical schools continued to work well, and the honorary principle was further extended during the year under report, by creating additional appointments at the J. J. Hospital both for in-door and out-door work.

Arrangements for anti-rabic treatment were sanctioned at nine additional centres. This new development was successful, and is a great convenience to people who would otherwise have to travel long distances to Kasauli or Coonoor.

The total income, exclusive of the cash balance, amounted to nearly Rs. 50 lakhs of which Rs. 7½ lakhs were contributed by local funds, Rs. 9½ lakhs by municipal funds, while the interest on invested capital yielded Rs. 68,000. Subscriptions amounted to Rs. 85,700, while of a total of over Rs. 6¾ lakhs under miscellaneous receipts Rs. 2 lakhs were realised as hospital fees and Rs. 2⅕ lakhs were contributed by nursing associations.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 50 lakhs, an increase of over Rs. 6 lakhs on the previous year. The net cost was Rs. 45¾ lakhs.

SANITATION

There were 156 municipalities with a population of nearly 26¾ lakhs. Their combined income amounted to over 180 lakhs. Nearly 73 lakhs were spent on water supplies, drainage, conservancy and other public health requirements.

Twenty-seven District Local Boards and 219 Taluka Local Boards with an aggregate income of 149 lakhs spent 3 lakhs on works connected with public health.

Pilgrim Centres.—The chief day of the Ashadhi Fair at Pandharpur fell on 24th July 1923. The number of pilgrims who attended the fair was 200,000, the highest on record.

Infection was already in the vicinity and 138 cases of cholera and 93 deaths occurred in Pandharpur during the first 12 days of the fair. A partial failure of the water-supply added to the difficulty of controlling the epidemic. The insufficiency of the water-supply arrangements and their liability to become more so under any unusual conditions is now receiving the active attention of the Sanitary Engineer's Department. The distributing system also requires overhauling and expansion.

The Kartiki Fair (Pandharpur) held in November was the next in importance. Over 91 thousand attended and about half that number attended each of the three other Pandharpur fairs. The aggregate tax collected for the year amounted to Rs. 91,447.

Other fairs at Vantha in Dholka Taluka and at Shukaltirth in Broach Taluka, respectively, were held from 10th to 15th November at which

10,000 and 35,000 pilgrims assembled. The services of the Inspectors, Sanitation and Vaccination, were in each case at the disposal of the District Officers.

VACCINATION

The number of primary vaccinations in the Presidency and Sind showed an increase of nearly 30,000 over the previous year. Including Aden, where there was a large drop, as the unprotected persons available for vaccination became adoptive, there was a slight decrease. Out of nearly 632,000 vaccinations only ·25 per cent. were unsuccessful. In 11·23 per cent. of the cases the results could not be ascertained and in 88·52 per cent. were definitely known to be successful; 96 per cent. of the persons vaccinated were children up to the age of 6. Almost all the registration districts returned a large number of deaths from smallpox.

In Gujarat infection was brought from adjoining territory. The epidemic first broke out in Kapadvanj town in November 1923 but was not reported by the local authorities and thus remained unnoticed for nearly a month. In Aden, following on the efficient vaccination campaign, there were only 18 cases of small-pox, of which 16 were imported during the year and there were six deaths against 69 in the previous year.

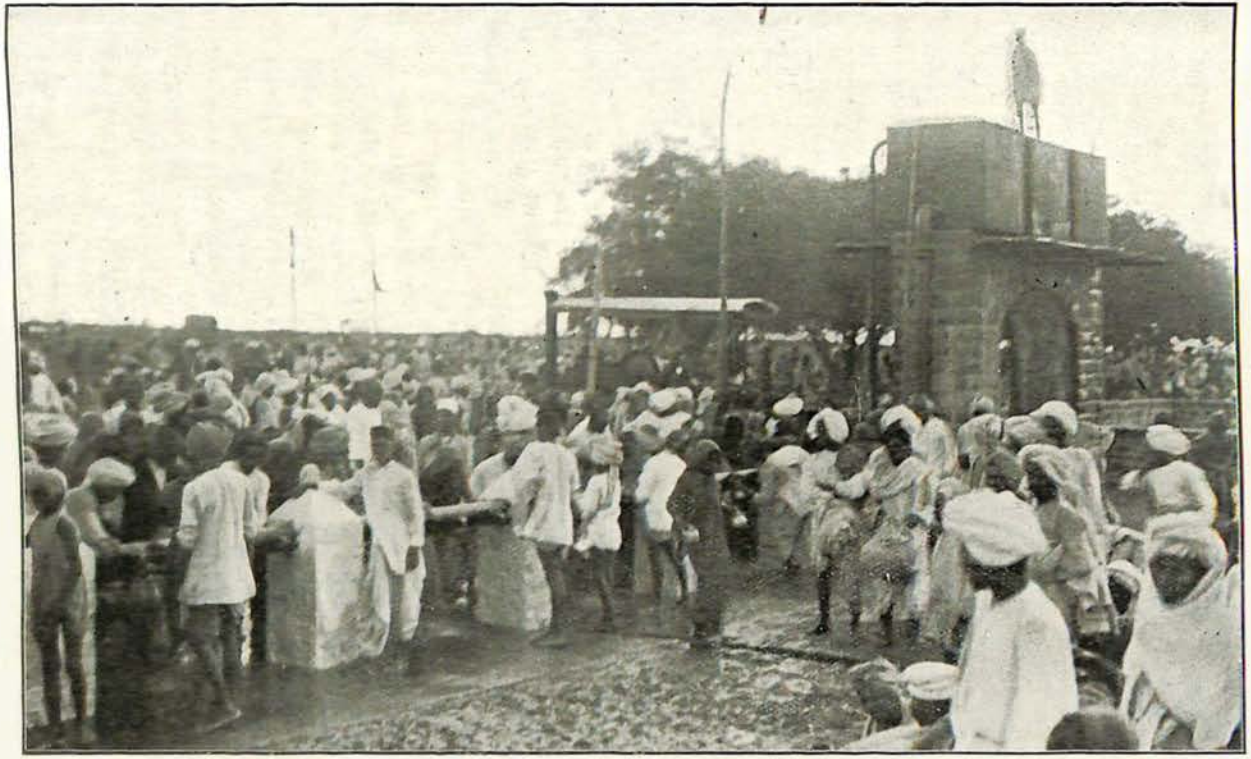
Special vaccination campaigns amongst school children were carried out, but the Director of Public Health regrets that in certain districts there was a growing indifference to vaccination on the part of the public which in many places it was impossible to overcome. In one or two places organised, active anti-vaccination propaganda was observed which was met by counter propaganda with, it is believed, successful results. In a few towns vaccination is compulsory, but in most of them compulsion is really either absent, lax or spasmodic. Bye-laws regarding registration of births and deaths are not always enforced, with the result that many infants are left without vaccination. The Director of Public Health also deplores the disposition amongst certain local authorities to economise at the expense of the vaccination staff.

During the year, nearly 1,185,000 doses of lymph were issued from the Vaccine Institute, Belgaum.

The cost of vaccination came to Rs. 6,18,000, each successful case costing Re. 1-1-1.

BOMBAY BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

The output in the manufacture of Haffkine's Plague Prophylactic (1,298,000 doses) was considerably higher in 1923 than in the two previous years, over 3 lakhs of doses more than in 1922 and over 4½ lakhs more than in 1921. Nearly three quarters of million rats were received and three hundred and five thousand were dissected and fully examined. Of these 2·77 per cent. were found plague-infected.



Pandharpur Fair : Water supply arrangements at Wakhari showing distribution of water through taps.

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That the scheme of Anti-Rabic treatment has been a success is evident by its extension to various centres of treatment throughout the Province. At Parel 1,368 persons applied for treatment during the year under report. Among the 845 cases it was necessary to treat there were nine failures, but there were no deaths among the 274 patients who began treatment within 48 hours of the bite.

In regard to general diagnostic measures, the activities of the Laboratory were disappointing. According to the Director the reason why the Laboratory is so little used for general diagnostic purposes is partly its distance—about 6 miles—from Bombay City and the delays liable to be caused in the examinations of delicate materials sent by post. Moreover, most hospitals have small clinical rooms where simple methods of diagnosis can be performed and medical practitioners have access to some of the many laboratories under private control which purport to be able to carry out the usual diagnostic measures. The unrestricted growth of these small clinical laboratories is by no means an unmixed blessing and may even in some cases amount to a menace. " A great deal of harm may be done by the ' Pathological reports ' of ill-trained, careless or dishonest persons and this form of unqualified medical practice will have to be legislated for before very long," says the Director.

Another activity of the Institute was the preparation of Snake Venom which is sent to Kasauli and there made into an antidote against snake bite which is distributed all over India, the venom being extracted from living cobras and Russell's vipers a large number of which are kept at Parel.

A table showing the values of certain food stuffs in calories was prepared at the request of the Director, Labour Office, Bombay, and will shortly be published by him.

The work of the Laboratory is being extended by the establishment of a Pharmacological Unit for the investigation of the values of indigenous drugs and also of a Biochemical Unit. The Indian Research Fund Association has generously agreed to provide Rs. 18,000 for the former scheme and Rs. 62,000 for the latter. The Government of Bombay have agreed to find a further sum of Rs. 14,484 to equip the Pharmacological Laboratory and to pay the subordinate staff. The establishment of these two units will practically complete the staff required for research into problems of tropical disease in all its aspects and should give a great impetus to the activities of, and will increase the prestige of, the Laboratory.

VETERINARY

The year was not, on the whole, a very healthy one for live-stock generally, for two reasons, (1) famine conditions and scarcity of fodder owing to failure of the rains in some of the Districts and (2) the prevalence

of Rinderpest. Prompt measures were taken by the staff to control the spread of contagious diseases and to protect animals against them.

The advance made in castrations by the Burdizzo Castrator was a noticeable feature of the year, and it is hoped that it will become more popular with the cultivators and cattle owners in course of time as compared with the old and inhumane country method of mulling. The new method is not only more humane but does away with all the trouble of after treatment and dressing.

Horse-breeding operations have ceased to exist under the orders of Government, but the District Local Boards of Ahmednagar and Sholapur have continued to maintain the stallions at their own expense, as the Districts are situated in the horse-breeding tract, while 8 stallions were maintained by District Local Boards in Sind.

Six new dispensaries were opened during the year in the Bombay Presidency while one was closed in Sind, making 99 in all. The number of cases treated was more than a lakh and a quarter. Contagious diseases were reported from all the districts, Bombay City and Sind. The inoculations performed showed an increase in the Bombay Presidency and a decrease in Sind.

The cost of the Department was Rs. 4,66,000 in the Presidency proper and in Sind over Rs. 1,26,000.

There were 62 students at the Bombay Veterinary College and 16 graduates passed out during the year, of whom 15 are in the service of Government, Local Bodies or Indian States and 1 is unemployed. Out of the 44 graduates who passed out in the last three years 21 obtained employment in the service of Government and Local Bodies, 15 are in the service of Indian States, 4 are engaged in private practice, 1 is unemployed and 3 have died.

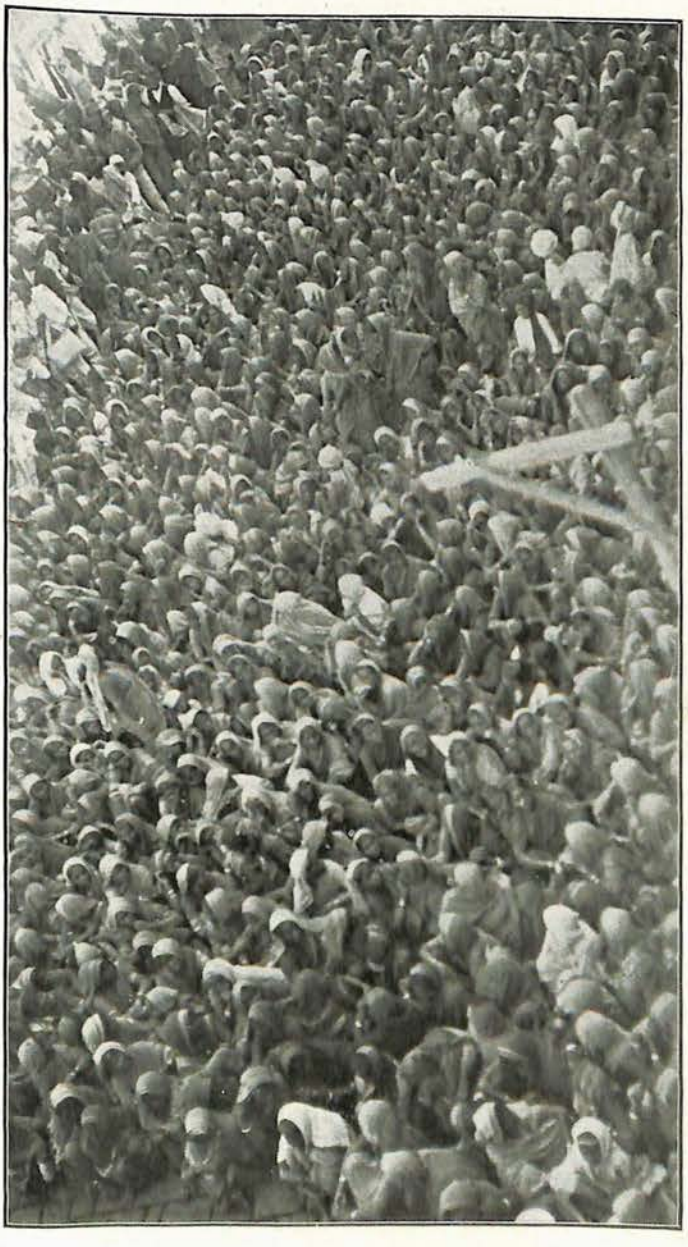
CHEMICAL ANALYSERS

The work of the Chemical Analysers to Government in Bombay and Sind is connected with the protection of the public either by the examination of the data relating to crime or suspected crime or by the examination of food-stuffs, water, etc. The medico-legal cases investigated during the year in Bombay totalled 644, of which 277 were cases of suspected human poisoning. Of the latter, poison was detected in 148 cases involving the poisoning of 168 persons, 81 of whom died.

In the Laboratory at Karachi 205 medico-legal cases were investigated, 58 of them being cases of suspected human poisoning.

The examination of stains for blood or other evidences of crime is also an important part of the work of the Chemical Analysers.

Three hundred such cases were examined during the year.



Pandharpur Fair : Outflow from the Waiting Shed. Women waiting their turn to enter temple *via* Women's Shed.

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WILD ANIMALS AND VENOMOUS SNAKES

The number of persons reported killed during the year by wild animals was 44 against 51 in the previous year. The mortality caused by snake-bite decreased from 1,315 in the previous year to 1,205, Ratnagiri alone being responsible for 261 deaths, Thana, Thar and Parkar and Hyderabad coming next in order.

The number of wild animals destroyed during the year rose from 6,774 to 7,722. Snakes to the number of 22,738 were killed compared with 23,484, of which Ratnagiri and Thar and Parkar were responsible for 11,855 and 5,244 snakes respectively. Owing to financial stringency the payment of rewards by Government for the destruction of wild animals has been stopped.

Brunton's Lancet was made use of in 39 cases in the Surat District and 37 were cured.

Tigers were responsible for ten deaths, four of them in Satara; elephants for one death in Belgaum, Leopards and Panthers for ten, five of them being in West Khandesh and four in Nasik. No death was reported from Bombay Suburban Division either from wild animals or from snake-bite.

MENTAL HOSPITALS

There are six Mental Hospitals in the Presidency, and the number of patients treated in them was 1,933 an increase of 28 over the previous year, the number of admissions being 503. 256 of the inmates are Criminal Insanes. Of the total treated, 253 were cured and 98 transferred to the care of friends.

Of the persons admitted during the year, 34 were Europeans and Eurasians, 40 Indian Christians, 272 Hindus and 150 Mahomedans. Domestic and private servants and labourers formed the largest number of admissions followed by cultivators, merchants and traders, clerks, mendicants and vagrants and artisans. The great majority of them were between 20 and 40 years of age.

In those cases where the causes of insanity could be ascertained the abuse of intoxicants was the chief cause of lunacy; mental stress, mental instability and toxic diseases coming next in order.

The net expenditure on the Hospitals amounted to nearly Rs. 5¾ lakhs, an increase of Rs. one lakh over the previous year.

ACWORTH LEPER ASYLUM, MATUNGA

The Acworth Leper Asylum was founded in the year 1890 by H. A. Acworth, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., who was then the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, from public donations, and provides accommodation for the segregation of pauper Indian lepers. It is in charge of a Resident Superintendent who works under the orders of the Board of Management, consisting of 20 members, of whom 3 are appointed by

Government, 5 by the Municipal Corporation of Bombay and 12 are co-opted annually.

The cost of maintaining lepers who are not residents of Bombay is borne by Government, and that of Bombay lepers by the Municipality. The other sources of income are the garden and the sewage farm and occasional donations.

The Asylum accommodates 364 lepers, 222 males and 142 females and the total number of persons treated in the Asylum during the year 1923 was 533, of whom 347 were males, 178 females, 4 male children and 4 female children. 401 were Hindus, 84 Indian Christians, 45 Musulmans and 3 Eurasians.

Seventy-six deaths occurred in the Asylum during the year.

Lepers who wish to work are provided with employment in the garden or the sewage farm and are given a small allowance which they use in buying small luxuries from a co-operative shop which is run for them on the Asylum premises.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,18,300.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

There is very little emigration and immigration in the Bombay Presidency in the sense in which it is usually understood, that is, the departure of Indians for foreign countries and the arrival of foreigners for settlement in India. 77 persons from Kaira are reported to have emigrated to Africa and 50 from Poona to various foreign countries. The movements of the population are mostly from district to district at particular seasons of the year. Thus 17,000 people from Parner and Sangammer Talukas of Ahmednagar District went out in July in search of labour and returned after the general rainfall in October. Owing to failure of rains in some parts of Larkana the inhabitants emigrated to various districts in Sind, more particularly to Nawabshah. Brohis and Baluchis from the hill tracts also came down to the canal-irrigated areas of the district and helped in harvesting. As usual, pilgrims came in large numbers from various parts of India and Afghanistan to visit the shrines of Lal Shewaz at Sehwan.

There was the usual temporary immigration of labourers from Goa and other adjoining districts for Forest and P. W. D. work in Kanara.

Bombay, Karachi, Sholapur, Ahmedabad and other trade centres attracted population from the districts. Nearly 50,000 people from Satara alone emigrated to trade centres for employment. Ratnagiri, Poona and other districts had also their share of emigration, while Thana attracted some skilled and unskilled labour from Gujarat for quarrying and rebuilding Railway bridges. Khandesh, as usual, drew labourers from Ahmednagar, Satara, Sholapur and Aurangabad for employment in cotton gins and presses.

Twenty-one emigrants returned to Karachi, while 3 left for service in Persia.

CHAPTER IX

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES

DURING the past decade the policy of Government has been to give more and more power to Local Bodies and, where control is exercised, to use that control solely for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the tax-payers, especially where Government funds have been lent for local purposes. This policy is especially noticeable in the case of municipalities. In Bombay City the powers of the Corporation are practically uncontrolled, while in the mofussil Government control has been to a very considerable extent relaxed. There are in the Presidency 33 City Municipalities and 123 Town Municipalities. The distinction between the two is largely a matter of population. No town with a population of less than 15,000 can be declared a City Municipality, but when a town is so declared it can appoint a Chief Executive Officer with extensive responsibilities and wide powers as defined by the Bombay District Municipal Act of 1901. These Municipalities may also appoint a Health Officer and an Engineer and their rules and bye-laws are sanctioned by Government. In the case of town municipalities this sanction is given by the Commissioner. During the last ten years ten town municipalities have been raised to the status of city municipalities, and all now have a Chief Officer. All permanent municipalities, with a few exceptions in Sind, must have not less than half its members elected and not more than one-half of the non-elected may be salaried servants of Government. In 1920 the popular composition of the municipalities was largely increased by a widening of the franchise and the cutting down of the nominated councillors to one-fifth of the total. Moreover all Presidents were elected. In 1921-22 the municipal franchise was put upon the same basis as that for the local Legislative Council and communal representation to Mahomedans was allowed in all municipalities.

The principal duties of municipalities lie in the direction of the provision and maintenance of public and utility services such as roads, dispensaries, water supply, sanitation and education. They are allowed to raise funds both by direct and indirect taxation. Moreover when the circumstances of a case require it and the Local Body is prepared to make adequate efforts to help itself, Government renders assistance both by loans and grants-in-aid (subject to a limit of 50 per cent. of the cost in the latter case) towards the cost of big undertakings. By this means Ahmedabad, Poona, Lonavla, Nasik, Jalgaon, Karad, Sholapur, Bijapur, Dharwar, Hubli, Hyderabad, Sukkur and other towns have been provided with

an improved water supply and Ahmedabad and Poona with a complete system of underground drainage. In some cases where the question of good water supply is of more than local importance water-works have been constructed entirely at Government expense. Pandharpur, a great pilgrim centre, is a case in point. Town improvements and the opening out of congested and insanitary areas are other objects for which Government makes liberal grants. Considerable improvements in the sanitary services of urban areas have been brought about by Government's assistance. Municipalities with a population of 15,000 and over may appoint Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors and Government bears two-third of the cost of the Health Officers and one-half of the cost of Sanitary Inspectors.

Municipalities are now allowed practically a free hand in the matter of the selection and appointment of their Chief Officers.

The total number of Municipalities remained the same, *viz.*, 156, of these 33 were City Municipalities. The Municipalities of Mahableshwar and Satara Suburban continue to consist wholly of nominated members. One Municipality in the Central Division and 5 Municipalities in Sind were reconstituted during the year on a four-fifths elective basis and given the right to elect their own Presidents. The Ahmedabad Municipality which was under supersession was re-established in February 1924 while that of Surat was managed by the Committee of Management throughout the year.

The aggregate ordinary income of the municipalities excluding items under the head "Extraordinary and Debt" rose from Rs. 180¼ lakhs to Rs. 195 lakhs. All the Divisions showed increases in income. The incidence of taxation was highest at Alandi (Rs. 15-10-2) and lowest at Ashta (Re. 0-11-8). The aggregate expenditure including items under the head "Extraordinary and Debt" amounted to Rs. 260 lakhs, an increase of 20 lakhs over the previous year. The various municipalities now have loan debts amounting to over Rs. 101¾ lakhs, the Ahmedabad Municipality alone being responsible for Rs. 22¾ lakhs. Nearly 4½ lakhs were paid off during the year.

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY

The Bombay City Municipality has an income considerably larger than all the 156 municipalities in the rest of the Presidency and Sind combined. During the year 1923-24 its income amounted to Rs. 279 lakhs, an increase of 12 lakhs over the previous year. General Tax (6¼ lakhs), Interest and profit on the Investments of Surplus Loan and other balances (2 lakhs); Water Tax (5 lakhs), Halalkhor Tax (1¾ lakhs) and Market Receipts (1 lakh) showed the principal increases. The incidence of taxation was Rs. 21-1-2 as against Rs. 20-2-4 in the previous year. Loans on capital account were taken up to the amount of Rs. 340 lakhs

from Government and Rs. 1,10,000 from the Western India Turf Club and Rs. 338 lakhs were spent on loan works. The capital liabilities of the Corporation increased to 1,443 lakhs. Against this debt, the total sinking fund invested is 261 lakhs, leaving a net liability of 1,182 lakhs. The revenue and capital assets of the Municipality amounted to 2,186 lakhs and the liabilities to 1,691 lakhs, a surplus of 495 lakhs.

Many important works were completed during the year including additions to the Crawford Market and Hospitals, and two new schools. Buildings have been erected on nearly all the reconstituted plots in Church Gate Street. Satisfactory progress was made with the work of opening up and developing the Mahim area and providing through communication. The construction of the road from Lady Jamshetji Road to Mahim Station was well advanced. One of the two roads in the Nardulla Tank Scheme was opened for traffic, while the work in respect of the other was in progress. Considerable progress was made with the work of acquiring properties for the extension of DeLisle road northwards and for widening and improving Lady Jamshetji Road from Bombay Woollen Mills to Bandra Causeway. Several properties were acquired in connection with the scheme for providing a public park at Mahim.

The total rainfall at Lakes Tansa, Vehar, Tulsi and Powai, from which the city derives its water supply was more than the average and all the lakes except Vehar overflowed. Satisfactory progress was made during the year with the Tansa Completion Works.

The Fire Brigade received 614 calls, 135 of which were false alarms. The estimated loss of property by fire was 35¾ lakhs, ten fires alone accounting for 24¾ lakhs.

. The total number of deaths during the year rose from 37,297 to 37,959 giving a death-rate of 31·11 per 1,000. The birth-rate was 17·20 and the number of births 20,995. The rate of infant mortality was 411 per 1,000 the average for ten years being 475. Measures for the reduction of infant mortality were continued during the year.

Markets and Slaughter Houses brought in a revenue of 11⅛ lakhs. Unwholesome food was destroyed to the amount of 546,147 pounds.

There were 40,000 pupils in the 333 schools, an increase of over 3,000 over the previous year. Five new schools were opened, while two old schools were closed and four were amalgamated with others. Over 22⅓ lakhs of rupees were spent on education at an average cost per pupil of Rs. 61.

LOCAL BOARD ADMINISTRATION

Every Local Board is presided over by a president who is elected from amongst the non-official members of the board. In addition a vice-

president is also similarly elected. The funds at the disposal of the boards consist chiefly of the one-anna cess on Land Revenue, but there are other sources of revenue, such as proceeds of ferries, tolls on Local Fund roads, quarrying fees, etc. The boards have also the power to levy, with the sanction of the Commissioner, such local taxes as a local authority is authorized to impose under section 80A (3) (*a*) of the Government of India Act. In addition, considerable grants are made by Government for education, roads and bridges, the improvement of communications, water-supply and village sanitation, and the proper equipment and maintenance of dispensaries.

In 1922-23 Government's contribution to the expenditure of local boards under the more important heads of Education, Medical and Civil Works compared with the total expenditure under the respective heads was as shown below :—

	Government contribution.	Total expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Education ..	75,91,564	87,29,121
Medical ..	1,04,760	8,99,885
Civil Works ..	12,67,820	37,46,901

The greater part of the revenue is usually spent by the District Board on works of general utility to the whole district, but each taluka board has funds at its disposal to enable it to carry out and maintain works of purely local utility for which it is primarily responsible. At least one-third of the net revenue from the one-anna cess must be spent on education.

There was no change in the number of District Local Boards (27) and Taluka Local Boards (222) during 1923-24. Twenty-six District Boards and 159 Taluka Boards had non-official Presidents, an increase in the latter of 29. The total membership was 3,054 of whom 2,006 were elected. The average percentage of members present at each meeting of the Taluka and the District Local Board were respectively 58·5 and 66·3 in the Northern Division, 59·9 and 70·85 in the Central Division, 54·32 and 74·73 in the Southern Division, 47·48 and 56·54 in Sind and 67 and 72 in the Bombay Suburban Division.

The aggregate income of the Boards rose from Rs. 149 lakhs to Rs. 161¾ lakhs. The incidence of taxation was the highest in Broach (Re. 0-9-7) and the lowest in Ratnagiri (Re. 0-0-11). Expenditure rose by 8 lakhs to Rs. 156½ lakhs, Education (90½ lakhs), Medical Relief (11 lakhs) and Public Works (45¾ lakhs) being the principal items of expenditure.

Works Committees consisting chiefly of non-official members have been appointed by most of the Boards of the Northern Division and village works committees in parts of Panch Mahals and Kaira. On the whole the members of these Committees are reported to have taken a fair amount of interest in the supervision of the works and in the Central

Division the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and members of Works Committees are reported to be alive to their responsibilities. This improvement is reported to be due to the payment of travelling allowances to members for inspecting works in progress. The system of giving small works on contract to village Patils and Panchas is being tried in some talukas ; but the villagers show an inexplicable apathy towards the Scheme. There are great advantages in this simple system of entrusting village works to villagers and Government believe that it is undoubtedly the correct line in which to proceed if interest in Local Self-Government is to be stimulated. The object can be achieved by entrusting these works to village panchayats where these are established.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS

The number of Village Panchayats set up in each Division are as follows :—

	Number of villages.	Number of Panchayats established.
Northern Division ..	4,815	60
Central Division ..	9,632	230
Southern Division ..	8,151	96
Sind ..	5,107	Nil.
Bombay Suburban Division ..	92	1

A Government resolution reviewing the administration of Local Boards for 1922-23, says :—" The Village Panchayat Act which was meant to be a source of financial and administrative relief to the Local Boards has not so far been of practical utility in that direction. There are signs that the rural population is not anxious to have Panchayats, the main reason being that the people do not want to tax themselves, however lightly. A dislike of taxation is not peculiar to the villagers of this Presidency ; it is only natural that taxation should not appeal to villagers who have not yet seen the benefits that will result from their contributions. From the applications received for cancelling the Panchayats already established, it seems that the people are showing a deplorable lack of appreciation of the opportunities afforded them for training in the art of Local Self-Government. The President, District Local Board, Satara, observes that the District Local Board has taken steps to organise and train village panchayats, since it is to those panchayats that they must look for assistance in connection with education, village sanitation and inspection of village roads, but so long as local enthusiasm is not aroused there will be no real progress in Local Self-Government. If the village panchayats are to have any vitality they must have responsible functions and adequate funds ; but complaints have been received that the members of the village panchayats are unwilling to facilitate the collection of the house tax

imposed by these bodies and prefer that the odium of collection should fall on Government. This the President says is, perhaps, not unnatural, as it is evident that the electorate will require more education as to the meaning of Local Self-Government before its duties and responsibilities are fully realised by them. The Local Boards will have to carry on an intensive propaganda if they expect to have successful Panchayats established."

BOMBAY IMPROVEMENT TRUST

Expenditure on Capital works was Rs. 69·6 lakhs as against Rs. 83·4 lakhs in the previous year. Progress was made in the Dadar-Matunga and Sion-Matunga, Sewri-Wadala, Worli, Dharavi, Naigaum and Parel Schemes.

The Mazagon Chawls were completed and two new street schemes and two Police Accommodation Schemes were notified.

Awards amounting to Rs. 12·61 lakhs were made for land aggregating 2·33 lakhs of square yards, an average rate of Rs. 5·41 per square yard as against Rs. 6·33 per square yard in the previous year.

The area of developed land permanently leased decreased from 23·70 lakhs to 23·37 lakhs square yards and the rental increased from Rs. 25·3 lakhs to Rs. 25·7 lakhs. The area of unleased developed land at the close of the year was 3·69 lakhs square yards as against 2·60 lakhs square yards at the close of the previous year. The area of undeveloped land increased from 85·41 lakhs of square yards to 85·58 lakhs of square yards.

The balance against the Trust in the way of an excess of tenements demolished over new tenements provided on their estates including those erected by the Development Department and the several Mill Companies has been wiped off, leaving a balance in favour of the Trust instead of against it, *viz.* by 2,885 tenements.

The average population of the Board's Chawls (excluding Foras Road and Mazagon and New Kalapani Chawls) and semi-permanent Camps was 21,953 and it is satisfactory to note that the death-rate fell from 10·61 to 9·06, the lowest since 1912, compared with the average death-rate of the City which rose to 31·11 from 31·06.

The total annual rental of the rooms in the Trust Chawls rose from Rs. 3·75 lakhs to Rs. 4·48 lakhs, the revenue actually collected being Rs. 4·34 lakhs or 96·87 per cent. of the total demand including arrears of the previous years. The net annual return works out to only 4·38 per cent. on the outlay and the average loss borne by the Trust comes to Rs. 8·68 per room per annum.

Thirty-seven plots were disposed of against 38 in the previous year, and their total area and capital value were 1·65 lakhs square yards and Rs. 31·34 lakhs. Collection of ground rent amounted to Rs. 20·5 lakhs and the rent realised from buildings acquired but not demolished and from lands let for cultivation, etc., totalled Rs. 16·51 lakhs.

The Capital Account stood as follows :—

Opening Balance	.. Rs.	150·1 lakhs.
Loan Receipts	.. ,,	89 ,,
Sale Proceeds	.. ,,	23·6 ,,
Expenditure	.. ,,	125·1 ,, (including a deficit of Rs. 16·54 lakhs on the general account).
Closing Balance	.. Rs.	137·6 lakhs.

The total borrowings of the Trust as on 31st March 1924 stood at Rs. 13 crores 54 lakhs (including £899,600 raised in England) involving payment of interest and Sinking Fund charges amounting to about Rs. 81 lakhs per annum.

BOMBAY PORT TRUST

Receipts under all heads amounted to Rs. 260¾ lakhs, and expenditure to Rs. 262 lakhs, a net deficit of Rs. 1¼ lakhs which was met from the Revenue Reserve Fund.

An outstanding feature of the trade of the year under review was the record exports of that great staple of Bombay's export trade, *viz.*, raw cotton, 3,086,000 bales being exported as against 2,879,000 bales in 1922-23. The receipts from ground and shed rents at the docks amounted to nearly Rs. 8½ lakhs against Rs. 15 lakhs during the previous year and Rs. 23¼ lakhs in 1921-22.

The total tonnage of cargoes dealt with at the docks and bunders during the year was 6,256,000 tons against 6,835,000 tons in the previous year ; imports and exports were nearly equal, the former having an advantage of 92,000 tons.

The average daily number of dock labourers engaged was 3,255 against 3,914 in 1922-23.

The dry docks reflected the prevailing slackness of trade, as they were occupied by only 189 vessels as against 223 during the preceding year. The total tonnage decreased to 625,287 tons, 113,301 tons less than the tonnage of the previous year.

The Ballard Pier berth was used by 197 vessels as against 215 during the preceding year. A regular service of postal and passenger trains to and from the station in connection with the incoming and outgoing mail and passenger vessels was maintained and 289 trains were run as against 275 in the previous year. The temporary accommodation provided at the station for the convenience of ocean-going passengers was made use of by 3,868 adults and 650 children as against 3,304 adults and 450 children in 1922-23. The largest number of passengers occupying the rooms on any one day was 76 adults and 21 children.

The conversion of No. 18 oil berth on the Alexandra Dock Harbour Wall into an additional passenger berth complementary to the Ballard

Pier berth was completed at a cost of nearly a lakh. It was occupied by 45 vessels during the year.

With the exception of heavy importations of bulk kerosene oil and a revival of the Persian Gulf traffic, there was a general decrease of traffic at the bunders, the tonnage dealt with having fallen from 1,938,000 tons during 1922-23 to 1,763,000 tons during 1923-24. The principal decreases occurred in cotton, petrol, wool and miscellaneous goods.

The revenue of the Port Trust Railway amounted to Rs. 29·34 lakhs compared with Rs. 23·28 lakhs for the previous year.

Expenditure on capital works during the year aggregated Rs. 128·07 lakhs, of which Rs. 29·24 lakhs was expended on the new cotton depôt at Mazagon, Rs. 26·60 lakhs on new dredging plant, Rs. 16·85 lakhs on the new bunder for coal and timber at Mazagon, Rs. 10·35 lakhs on the filling and lay-out of the reclamations at Mazagon-Sewri and Wadala, Rs. 9·44 lakhs on quarters for the superior and inferior staff, and Rs. 9·26 lakhs on the oil pier at Trombay with pipe line communication to Sewri. A loan of Rs. 160 lakhs was received from Government to meet capital expenditure.

The chief feature of the year under review was the settlement of the cotton trade at the new depôt at Mazagon. The opening ceremony of the new cotton green was performed by Seth Narandas Purshottamdas on the 1st November 1923, under the auspices of the East India Cotton Association.]

KARACHI PORT TRUST

The Revenue amounted to over Rs. 64 lakhs and the expenditure to 56¾ lakhs. The actual surplus was Rs. 7,44,964.

Nine hundred and forty-five steamers of all kinds entered the Port with a tonnage of 2,337,536 against 865 and 2,097,518 respectively in the previous year. Of the above 806 steamers were of British Nationality.

Of 139 foreign steamers, 41 were Italian, 33 German, 20 Dutch, 16 Norwegian, 9 Swedish, 8 American, 6 Greek, 3 Danish, 1 Arabian, 1 Finnish and 1 Roumanian.

The imports landed at the ship wharves during the year totalled 362,243 tons against 692,140 tons during the previous year. The decrease is due to a falling off in rice and coal and to the cessation of the exceptional import of wheat in the previous year.

The total shipments from the ship wharves for the year were 1,412,939 tons against 800,685 tons the previous year. The increase is due chiefly to the shipments of wheat, seed, barley, gram, maize and cotton. The quantity of wheat shipped was 608,550 tons against 272,786 tons in the previous year. The shipments of cotton reached a record of 705,796 bales, equivalent to 128,327 tons.

The largest cargo shipped by any one vessel was 11,013 tons in the S. S. " Anglo Columbia."

Thirteen pilgrim steamers left Karachi with 7,024 pilgrims for Jeddah and 13 returned with 10,670 pilgrims during the year.

The construction of three berths on the West side of the harbour is being pushed forward. A sum of over Rs. 18 lakhs was spent during the year on construction plant, quay wall and reclamation. The total expenditure from the commencement has been nearly Rs. 74½ lakhs.

In connection with the Port Improvement Scheme a Sterling Loan of £333,000 was raised in England.

ADEN PORT TRUST

The receipts were Rs. 85,529 less than in the previous year. The closing balance was Rs. 11,35,642 as against an opening balance of Rs. 12,48,115.

Imports increased from Rs. 7 crores 76 lakhs to Rs. 7 crores 87½ lakhs and exports from Rs. 6 crores 73¾ lakhs to Rs. 6 crores 90½ lakhs.

The number of vessels, including country craft, but excluding Government vessels entering the harbour during the year was 2,407 with an aggregate tonnage of 4,141,780 as against 2,228 with a tonnage of 3,511,212 during the last year. Thirty-six pilgrim ships entered the harbour on their way to and from the Haj against 28 in 1922-23.

WORKING OF THE RENT ACTS

Bombay.—The work of original enquiry held by the Deputy Rent Controller continued to be heavy throughout the year. Both landlords and tenants often requisitioned the help and advice of Lawyers and Civil Engineers and this contributed to prolong many of these enquiries.

One hundred and nine objections were received against 82 the previous year. With 11 objections which remained undisposed of from the previous year, the total number of objections was 120, of which 101 were determined by the Rent Committee, 2 were referred back to the Deputy Rent Controller, 2 were withdrawn by the parties themselves and the remaining 15 were pending at the close of the year. Out of these objections determined by the Rent Committee, the orders made by the Deputy Rent Controller were confirmed in 58 cases and were modified in 43 cases.

In all 23 meetings of the Rent Committee were held during the year.

As during the previous year, prosecutions were instituted against landlords or their agents who attempted to evade the orders passed by the Deputy Rent Controller by receiving rent in excess of the standard rent fixed in respect of " small premises." The total number of prosecutions instituted was 109 including 18 cases pending in the previous year resulting in 81 convictions and fines amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 1,511.

Out of the remaining 28 cases 21 were withdrawn and in 6 cases the accused were warned and discharged. One case was pending at the close of the year.

Poona.—Seventy-five suits under the Rent Act, including 14 pending from the previous year, came before the First Class Subordinate Judge during the year and 39 were disposed of, 32 in favour of the landlords, 2 in favour of the tenants, 2 compromised and 3 withdrawn.

Thana.—The Rent Acts were applied only to North Salsette Mahal. Seventy-five new cases were received during the year and four cases were pending from the last year. Out of these 77 were decided. Two appeals preferred against the decision of the Controller were decided by the Committee. The relief afforded by the Act is appreciated by the poor and middle classes most of whom are low paid Government servants.

Bombay Suburban District.—Standard rents were fixed on 130 applications covering several times that number of small premises and certificates were issued in the case of 39 large premises as compared with 137 applications for small premises and 21 certificates for large ones during last year. There were 12 appeals to the Rent Committees against Standard fixed by the Rent Controller.

Karachi.—The Rent Controller passed orders fixing and refixing the standard rents of 2,911 tenements comprising about 652 buildings under the Act wherein a sliding scale granting a different range of statutory increases to the landlords has been framed.

Sixty-five appeals against the Rent Controller's decisions were preferred to the panel of assessors out of which the Controller's decisions were upheld in 33 cases and modified in the remaining ones.

The Rent Controller rendered assistance to both the landlords and tenants as regards non-payment of rent and other infringements under the Act and settled their affairs amicably. This procedure which has been adopted ever since the introduction of the Rent Acts has given relief to both parties and has thus saved them from the expense and delays of the law courts.

The working of the Rent Acts in Karachi during the year caused no friction.

Aden.—The Bombay Rent (War Restrictions) Acts have been in force in Aden from the date of passing by the Legislature, but a Rent Controller was for the first time appointed in 1922.

During the year the Rent Controller dealt with 456 applications and fixed the standard rent of 740 small premises.

One appeal was preferred to the Rent Committee.

One hundred and fifty suits were filed before the Court for ejectment out of which 115 were decreed, 31 were dismissed and 4 settled out of Court.

CHAPTER X

COLLECTION OF REVENUE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

THE Revenue Administration of the Presidency of Bombay is carried on by the following officers acting under Government :—

Five Commissioners, 27 Collectors, 1 Deputy Commissioner and a number of Assistant Collectors. All these officers, with the exception of two who belong to the Bombay (Provincial) Civil Service, are members of the Covenanted Civil Service. In addition to the officers mentioned above, there are 87 Deputy Collectors. They are divided into three grades and are generally in charge of district treasuries or of divisions of districts.

A Collectorate generally contains ten talukas, each of which comprises about one hundred Government villages, that is, villages that are not alienated and the total revenues of which belong to the State. Each village has its regular complement of officers, a large number of whom are hereditary. The officers on whose services Government is mainly dependent are the patil, who is the head of the village for both revenue and police purposes ; the talati or kulkarni, who is the clerk and accountant ; the mahar who is a kind of beadle ; and the watchman. The patil and kulkarni either hold a certain quantity of rent-free land or are remunerated by a cash payment equivalent to a certain percentage on the collections. The mahar and watchman, in common with other village servants, also hold land on more or less favourable terms as regards assessment, and receive in addition grain and other payments in kind from the villagers. The remaining servants are the carpenter, blacksmith, potter, barber, and others whose services are necessary to the community. A village is for Government or social purposes complete in itself, so its revenue accounts are simple but complete. They are based on the Record of Rights. Every plot of land held by an occupant is separately measured, assessed and entered in the Record in the name of the person or persons in actual possession of it. The land revenue demand is based on this Record which is thus both a Record of Rights as well as of liability.

Over each taluka of a collectorate there is an officer termed MAMLATDAR (or Mukhtiarkar in Sind). This officer is responsible for the treasury business of his taluka. He has to see that the instalments are punctually paid by the several villages, that the village accounts are duly kept, that the occupants get their payments duly receipted, that the boundary marks are kept in proper repair ; in fact, to see that the village officers do their work properly. He is also a Magistrate.

AN ASSISTANT OR DEPUTY COLLECTOR is placed in revenue charge of, on an average, three talukas.

THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE is placed over the whole district. Besides superintending the realisation of the land revenue, the duties of administering the excise and other special taxes and of supervising the stamp revenue devolve in each district upon the Collector as executive head of the district.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONERS, of whom there are four for the Presidency proper and one in Sind, exercise a general superintendence and control over the revenue administration of the Presidency.

An important feature of the Revenue Administration is the steady rise in the revenue for non-agricultural use of lands. With the growth of trade and business and the expansion of towns more and more land is being diverted to non-agricultural purposes and the enhanced assessment realised on this account forms a not inconsiderable portion of the Revenue of the land.

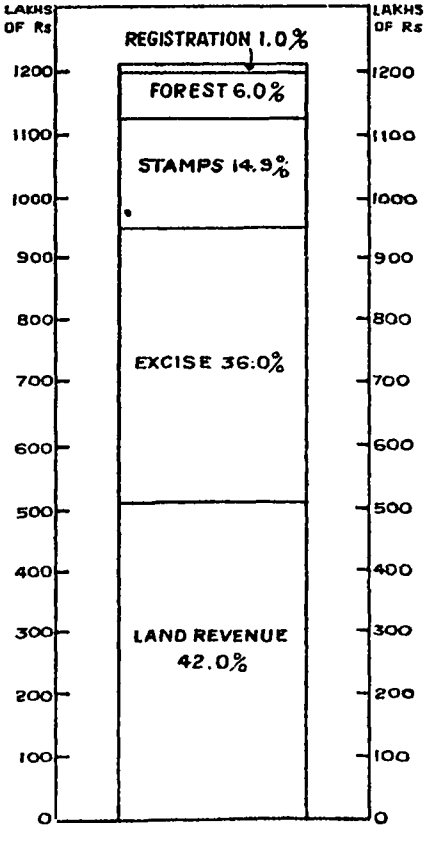
THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24

The Government of Bombay received Rs. 16½ lakhs as their share of the total income tax revenue of Rs. 785½ lakhs in this Presidency during 1922-23. For the year under review the revenue amounted to only Rs. 534⅓ lakhs owing to the unfavourable condition of the mill industry, the depressed condition of the cotton market and heavy refunds. Bombay therefore recieved nothing as its share of the income tax revenue for 1923-24, as the assessed income for that year fell below the assessed income of the year 1920-21 (a year of unexampled industrial prosperity) which is fixed as the datum line, by which this Presidency is entitled to a small subvention when the assessed income in any year exceeds that datum line.

In reviewing the sources of revenue before the Legislative Council in February 1924 the Honourable the Finance Member stated :—

" In both the last two years, I explained at some length the nature and character of our grievance against the Meston Settlement, and I must invite Honourable Members to study that detailed statement. I think it is right for every member of this House to make himself acquainted with our case, for although we have cried aloud for three years continually for redress, there are very few men outside this Presidency who have the slightest conception of what our grievance is. In fact, I recently learnt with some indignation that we were credited in a responsible official quarter with demanding the whole of the customs revenue collected in Bombay harbour, an egregious misrepresentation of our claim which only illustrates our difficulty in getting a patient hearing in any quarter. The complaint we have is very different. It does not relate to the Customs Duty but to the Income Tax. The province of Bombay finds that it is contributing

DISTRIBUTION OF PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1923-24.



some 8 crores of income tax to the Government of India, or 40 per cent. of the total income tax of all India and receives nothing this year out of all this vast revenue. We are primarily an industrial province, whereas other major provinces, such as Madras, United Provinces, and the Punjab are mainly agricultural.

"Since this new system was first suggested for introduction in 1920, we have never ceased to protest against the inequity of a system under which we obtain no benefit from our industrial activities, while we have to meet the far higher standard of expenditure imposed by industrial needs. But in the speech which I made in this House on the 19th February last year, I had to report the failure of our representations. It is with the greatest satisfaction, therefore, that I am now able to inform this House, that, within the last few months, the situation has changed. At a meeting of Finance Members of all Provinces, which was convened by the Government of India, at Delhi in the middle of November, it was unanimously agreed that it was necessary to set on foot a scientific examination of the sources of public revenue throughout India, and every one will recognise that this examination of the sources of public revenue must lead to a revision of the foundations on which the Meston Settlement has been based.

"Our case is so clearly founded on justice that I have no fears but that a scientific examination such as is contemplated, must lead to a redress of our principal grievance. But it will take time, and it may be impossible to remedy the mischief already done by the hasty adoption of a doctrinaire system of a federal finance, which was evolved in 1920, without a parallel or precedent in any country in the world."

There was a serious set-back in the year under review under the most important head of land revenue receipts. The budget estimate for the year stood at 575 lakhs land revenue, in addition to 47 lakhs under irrigation, a total of 622 lakhs. The final accounts of the year showed that the actual revenue was 509 lakhs land revenue *plus* 69 lakhs for irrigation, or a total decrease of 44 lakhs. The revenue under this head is always subject to heavy fluctuations between a margin of 4½ crores and 6¼ crores owing to the policy of grant of suspensions and remissions on a liberal scale.

The depression in trade continued during the year under review, as a result of which the stamp revenue again failed to come up to expectations. It was hoped to recover 190 lakhs out of this source of revenue, but the actual receipts amounted to 180 lakhs. In 1922 the Government of India did not allow this Government to increase stamp duty on certain documents, *e.g.*, Acknowledgment, Cheque, Receipts, Letters of Credit, Promissory Notes, Letters of Allotment of shares, as they considered that uniformity of taxation throughout India was desirable in respect of those documents. During the year under review, the Government of India

raised the duty on some of these documents but the benefit of these increased duties has mostly gone to the Central Government as the use of unified postage and revenue stamps is permitted on those documents. Since the introduction of the Reforms, an annual assignment of Rs. 3,30,000 is made to this Presidency from the Central Exchequer on account of loss of revenue owing to the use of unified stamps. The Government of Bombay has pressed for a substantial increase in the assignment, and it is understood that the question is under consideration.

The adverse effect of the decline of the two heads of revenue, viz., land revenue and stamps, was to some extent counterbalanced by an improvement in excise revenue, estimated in the budget of 1923-24 at 402 lakhs but which stood in the final accounts at 435 lakhs of rupees. The increase is due to the issue prices of liquor being raised from time to time, though the policy of reducing the consumption of liquor has succeeded. Consumption has fallen since the yeai 1920-21 by over 32 per cent. from 28 lakhs of gallons in that year to 19 lakhs in 1922-23 and 18½ lakhs in the year under review.

The Bombay Entertainments Duty Act of 1923 was in force for the whole of the year under reveiw. It was estimated that by the operation of the Act, provincial revenue would be increased by about Rs. 16 lakhs. The actual receipts, however, amounted to a little less than Rs. 9½ lakhs.

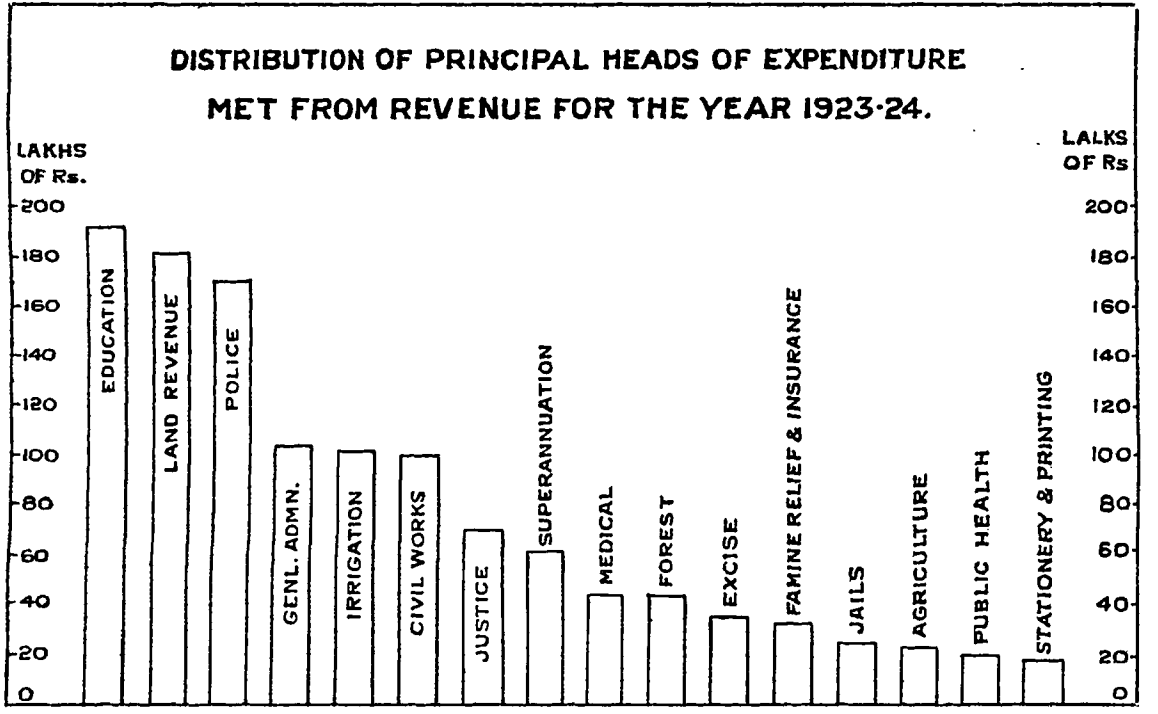
LOAN ACCOUNTS

The total advance drawn from the Government of India during the year 1923-24 for development and other general purposes was Rs. 10,25 lakhs. Out of this amount Rs. 8,68 lakhs were for Development purposes and the rest for general purposes. Out of the 8,68 lakhs, 2,79 lakhs were utilised by the Development Department proper, 89 lakhs were advanced to the Bombay Improvement Trust, 3,40 lakhs to the Bombay Municipality and 1,60 lakhs to the Bombay Port Trust. The advances carried interest at 6 per cent. per annum.

The principal items of revenue and expenditure for the year 1923-24 are given below :—

(Figures in thousands of rupees.)

	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
Land Revenue	5,08,89	1,82,85
Excise	4,34,59	35,36
Stamps	1,79,89	5,03
Forests	71,50	44,01
Registration	12,87	6,75
Scheduled Taxes	9,40	18


DISTRIBUTION OF PRINCIPAL HEADS OF EXPENDITURE
MET FROM REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1923-24.
LAKHS OF Rs.
LALKS OF Rs
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
EDUCATION
LAND REVENUE
POLICE
GENL. ADMN.
IRRIGATION
CIVIL WORKS
JUSTICE
SUPERANNUATION
MEDICAL
FOREST
EXCISE
FAMINE RELIEF & INSURANCE
JAILS
AGRICULTURE
PUBLIC HEALTH
STATIONERY & PRINTING

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Irrigation	54,02	1,00,91*
Interest	1,02,75	1,45,68
Sinking Funds	..	9,39
Administration of Justice	14,82	69,93
Jails and Convict Settlements ..	5,18	25,04
Police	5,90	1,68,29
Education	10,04	1,93,22
Medical	6,47	44,33
Public Health	8,35	20,20
Agriculture	3,54	24,07
Industries	4	1,69
Miscellaneous Departments.. ..	2,01	5,95
Civil Works	17,89	1,00,41
Superannuation allowances and Pensions	15,80	60,74
Stationery and Printing	2,73	18,64
Miscellaneous	14,30	22,92
General Administration	..	1,03,19
Ports and Pilotage	..	38
Scientific Departments	..	65
Famine Relief and Insurance ..	..	33,60

LAND REVENUE

——	Demand.	Collection.	Suspensions.	Remissions.
	Lakhs.	Lakhs.	Lakhs.	Lakhs.
Northern Division ..	128·80	89·80	22·23	16·61
Central Division ..	227·71	156·54	46·30	24·62
Southern Division ..	127·73	96·43	24·43	6·78
Sind ..	113	111	·87	6·67
Bombay Suburban Division ..	1·48	1·44	1/10	....

PUBLIC WORKS REVENUE

The Public Works Revenue falls under three heads :—" Imperial Military ", " Central " and " Provincial ". The latter consists of rents from buildings, electric and water supply and sanitary installations,

* This is inclusive of an expenditure of 30,00 on protective irrigation works from the annual assignment of 63,60 for famine Relief and Insurance.

ferry receipts, tolls on roads, sale of water, etc., and amounted to over Rs. 17 lakhs as against 16 lakhs derived last year.

The Revenue under the other two heads amounted to over Rs. 71,000 as against Rs. 91,000 derived last year.

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

PORT OF BOMBAY

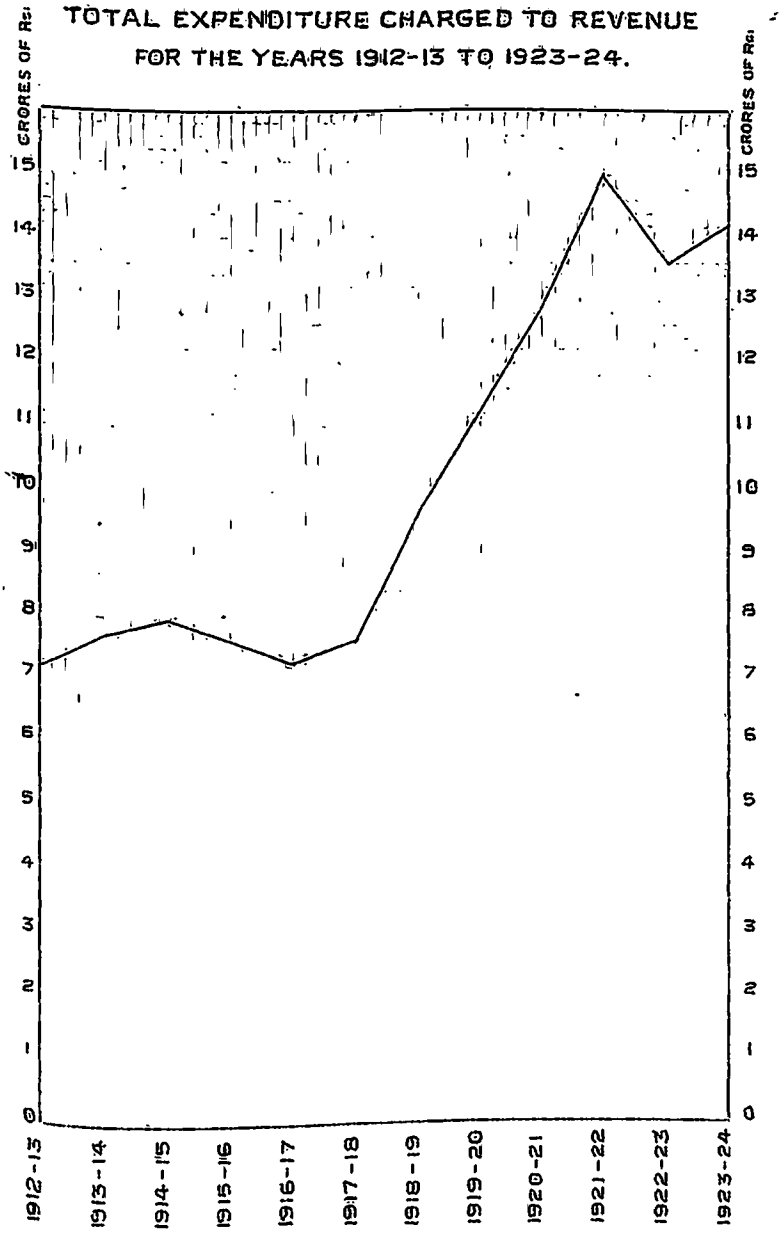
Changes in the rate of duty.—The general rate of import duty during the year under review remained unaltered at 15 per cent. The Indian Finance Bill, 1924, as originally introduced, contained certain proposals regarding the tariff which would, had they become law, have benefited both the public and the Customs administration. This bill, however, was thrown out by the Assembly, and the second bill, which became law by certification, jettisoned as unessential all the changes proposed except the new duty on undipped splints for match making and match boxes and parts of match boxes. This new duty was necessary in order to prevent a sudden and heavy loss of revenue. The salt duty was also reduced to Rs. 1-4-0 per maund and the duty on salted fish was correspondingly modified.

Gross Customs Receipts.—The gross receipts credited to Customs at the Bombay Custom House, excluding the excise duty on cotton manufactures and the tea, indigo and cotton cesses, amounted to Rs. 11 crores 80 lakhs as compared with Rs. 12 crores 44 lakhs in the preceding year.

The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 17·19 lakhs as against Rs. 16·56 lakhs in the previous year. The ratio of expenditure to net collections was 1·5 per cent. The cost of the establishment, which includes the cost of the establishment of the Commissioner's office as well as the cost of establishments maintained at the expense of private firms in connection with their bonded warehouses, represented 1·2 per cent. of the net collections and increased from Rs. 13·36 lakhs to Rs. 13·64 lakhs.

The total number of cases adjudicated under the Sea Customs Act was 2,307 as against 2,370 in the preceding year. Out of the total number, 539 related to offences under the Merchandise Marks Act which are dealt with separately in this report. Of the remaining 1,768 no penalty was imposed in 446 cases.

The two chief classes of offences, says the Annual Report, are (1) misdeclarations and (2) attempts to smuggle inwards or outwards dutiable and prohibited goods. The most common offences in the second class consist in the importation through the post—usually innocently—of goods which may not be so imported, such as arms and parts of arms and drugs.


TOTAL EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO REVENUE
FOR THE YEARS 1912-13 TO 1923-24.
CRORES OF Rs.
CRORES OF Rs.
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
1912-13
1913-14
1914-15
1915-16
1916-17
1917-18
1918-19
1919-20
1920-21
1921-22
1922-23
1923-24

There were in all 81 such cases. There were no less than 143 cases detected of the import of obscenities, also for the most part through the post. This was the result of a special campaign in which the co-operation of the Presidency postal authorities was most valuable; considerable penalties were imposed and collected, and one of the chief continental suppliers admitted that he would in future have to avoid Bombay as a port of entry. Many persons seem to think that the private importation of obscenities is no offence. Some at least now know better. Heavy blows have also been dealt at the illicit export trade in wild birds' plumage. A number of organizations, some with connections all over India, have been successfully unmasked, and heavy penalties imposed. During the investigations into one case, which lasted the best part of a year, suspicions were aroused that the organization concerned was preparing to import as well as to export contraband. A particularly ingenious piece of detective work eventually resulted in the seizure of five pounds of cocaine concealed in cases of padlocks in such a way as to defy any ordinary examination.

During the year 18 applications were received from parties interested in trade marks requesting this Custom House to detain goods imported in imitation of marks to the exclusive use of which the applicants claimed a right.

There were 376 cases of false trade description as to the country of origin of which 360 cases related to goods not manufactured in the United Kingdom or British India but bearing names of British Indian dealers or other descriptive terms suggestive of British or British Indian origin.

Land Customs.—The number of duty collecting stations on the Portuguese Frontiers remained unchanged during the year. The receipts at the Customs Houses were Rs. 6·62 lakhs during the year under report against Rs. 9·82 lakhs during the previous year, a decrease of Rs. 3·20 lakhs. The decrease in revenue occurred entirely at the Castle-Rock Customs House and was attributed to the reduction from 10 to 2½ per cent. in the rate of duty on Railway Engines, tenders and materials and to a decrease in the imports of these as compared with the previous year.

SIND

The gross Customs revenue collected in Sind amounted to 3 crores 65 lakhs as compared with 3 crores 69 lakhs in the previous year. The refunds and drawbacks amounted to Rs. 19 lakhs against Rs. 27 lakhs in the past year. The total expenditure was Rs. 6·10 lakhs showing a decrease of Rs. 5,000.

Over 561 offences were adjudicated under the Sea Customs Act, 42 less than the previous year. The offences related mainly to the importation of obscene pictures and arms and ammunition. The Preventive Service

alone were responsible for the detection of 21 cases of illicit importation of arms and ammunition, while the postal section accounted for the import of revolvers and pistols from Mespot and Germany.

There were 1,207 consignments infringing the Indian Merchandise Marks Act as compared with 477 last year.

SALT DEPARTMENT

The effect of the Salt Tax both on the production and the sale of salt was the chief feature of the year.

The duty on salt was doubled by the Government of India with effect from March 1st, 1923, and again finally reduced to the original figure with effect from March 1st, 1924. Both the increase and subsequent reduction were anticipated by the large wholesale dealers with the result that removal of salt from the various depots was stimulated before the former and after the latter took effect and correspondingly depressed for the 12 months during which the higher duty was in force.

The result, as pointed out by the Collector, is that the effect upon consumption cannot be deduced from the figures showing the quantity removed from the depots without information as to the stocks lying in the hands of wholesale and retail dealers at the commencement and close of the year.

The general result of the rise in duty during the year was an increase in the receipts, gross and net, accompanied by a fall in the quantity of salt removed. The increase in the gross receipts (over 216 lakhs) was more than Rs. 70 lakhs, while the net increase was over Rs. 100 lakhs, the difference between the two figures being chiefly due to a heavy fall in the amount of refunds and a slight fall in expenditure.

The salt with which the Bombay Presidency Salt Department has to deal may be classified as follows :—

(1) Baragra or Rann salt made from brine wells on the edge of the Lesser Rann of Cutch in the salt works at Kharaghoda and Udu, six miles apart, and jointly named the Pritchard Salt Works. These are Government property and worked departmentally.

(2) Sea salt made within the Presidency. The factories at Dharasna and Chharvada on the South of the Gujarat Coast near Bulsar are both Government property and worked departmentally. The other salt works, with three exceptions, are grouped within a radius of 30 miles of Bombay City. Those which are Government property are leased to private individuals for working ; the others are owned as well as worked privately.

(3) Imported salt, mostly from sea salt works in Goa Territory.

The following table giving the issues of salt during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 indicates the relative importance of the different sources of supply :—

Description of Salt.	Total.	
	1922-23.	1923-24.
	Mds.	Mds.
Baragra Salt	2,609,046	1,526,164
Sea Salt	9,557,904	8,194,740
Imported Salt	303,895	289,873
Total ..	12,470,845	10,010,777

or 2,460,000 maunds less than in 1922-23.

The Department is suffering and must for some time continue to suffer from the effects of over-production in previous years and the large stocks which remain undisposed of will render it necessary still further to restrict an output which has already been considerably reduced. The number of pans at the Pritchard Salt Works has been reduced by 33 per cent., while the manufacture of sea salt has been suspended at Chharvada and restricted at Dharasna. This restriction of output is due to the over-stocked condition of the market. The diminution in removals of magnesium chloride from Kharaghoda which was noted in the last year's report continued during 1923-24. The amount has fallen to less than half of that for the previous year.

Both at Kharaghoda and the Sea Salt Works the announcement by the Finance Member in the Imperial Assembly of the reduction of the rate of duty on salt was a signal for a heavy and unprecedented rush for the removal of salt within the short period before the monsoon available for the purpose. It was a race against time. During April 1924, 2,813,918 maunds of sea salt were removed, during May, 2,030,017 maunds and during June, 270,763 maunds. Thus in less than 2½ months more than 5,100,000 maunds of sea salt (including the produce of the Dharasna-Chharvada agars) were removed. As a result the manufacturing season—1st July 1923 to 30th June 1924—showed a record total removal of 10,562,930 maunds of sea salt against 8,354,774 maunds for the 12 months ending 30th June 1923. The previous highest recorded figure of sales of sea salt during any one manufacturing season was 10,256,890 maunds in 1918-19 when there was a great scarcity of salt all over India. Moreover

in the past season almost 50 per cent. of the total removals took place during the 11 weeks from the beginning of April to the middle of June.

As the Collector points out, " This is an achievement of which the whole staff of the salt talukas from top to bottom may well be proud. Pride of place is taken by Shewa taluka, from which were removed as many as 1,932,484 maunds of salt."

The number of fish-curing yards at which business was transacted during the year under report remained unchanged, *viz.* 32. The total quantity of fish brought to be cured was 280,999 maunds against 231,938 maunds in the previous year.

The permission to use denatured salt free of duty, granted to agriculturists, was availed of to the extent of 1,304 maunds against 772 maunds in the previous year, principally in Ratnagiri and Kanara. " It is curious," says the report, " that this valuable and cheap manure for mango trees is not more used in Thana and Kolaba, although its use is well established in Goa, the home of the grafted mango."

The Salt Department was separated from the Excise Department and placed under the Collector of Salt Revenue with effect from 1st March 1924, thus reverting to the system which existed previously to the amalgamation of 1917. The deamalgamation of the Salt and Excise Departments is a preliminary step to the complete severance of the former from the Local Government and the assumption by the Government of India of full control over the Salt Department in the Presidency proper.

It may not be inappropriate to give here a short resume of the work of the Department.

In addition to working departmentally the Rann Salt Works at Kharaghoda and the Government Salt Works at Dharasna-Chharvada it supervises the manufacture and the guarding of the salt produced in the private or leased salt works, the bulk of which are situated within a radius of 30 miles from Bombay.

It also maintains a salt and opium line 183 miles in length between Gujarat proper and the Kathiawar States, and Customs lines 18½ miles and 167 miles in length round the Portuguese possessions of Daman and Goa.

In addition to this it collects Customs dues along the whole of the sea board of the Presidency proper, except the Port of Bombay, from the Gulf of Cambay to the Southern limit of Kanara with a tariff ranging from 10 to 30 per cent. ; this is a considerable responsibility.

And lastly it supervises the lighting of the coast, outside the Harbour of Bombay, the country sailing craft and the coasting steamer traffic, and the

landing of passengers and goods as well as the fisheries along 586 miles of Coast.

SIND

At the beginning of the year there was a stock of 333,000 maunds of salt in Sind and over 328,000 maunds were manufactured in the province, of which Maurypur Salt Works alone were responsible for 311,000 maunds. Over 16,000 maunds were excavated at the Saran Salt Works, while at Darwari (in Thar Parkar district) only 100 maunds were excavated. Of the total quantity of salt produced locally and imported by private agencies, 410,000 maunds were consumed in Sind during the year. The average consumption worked out to 10·30 lbs. per head a year as against 10·99 lbs. in the previous year.

The average wholesale and retail prices of salt in the province worked out to Rs. 3-15-6 and Rs. 4-3-2 per maund respectively in 1923-24 as compared with Rs. 2-15-9 and Rs. 3-2-10 in the previous year.

The gross receipts from the Excise duty and other charges amounted to Rs. 11·66 lakhs and the expenditure to Rs. 2·11 lakhs.

The number of offences against the salt laws detected during the year was 26 as compared with 27 in 1922-23.

ADEN

The total revenue amounted to Rs. 66,000 against Rs. 86,200 in 1922-23.

The quantity of salt removed from the Arab salt-pans at Sheikh Othman declined from 70,178 maunds to 62,076 maunds.

The quantity of salt exported from Lalljee's Salt Works amounted to 72,849 tons, as compared with 71,604 tons in the previous year, while from the Italian Salt Works it fell from 125,903 tons to 121,091 tons.

No offences against the Salt Act were detected during the year.

EXCISE

The outstanding feature of the year was a further decline in the consumption of country and foreign liquor below the level of the previous year. In the case of country liquor the decrease amounted to 89,000 gallons bringing the total reduction since the year 1919-20 to no less than 1,021,000 gallons or 35·7 per cent. These figures do not include Aden. The fall was the most marked in urban areas, *i.e.*, district headquarter towns and towns with a population of 10,000 and upwards, while a slight increase occurred in rural areas. The figures of total and *per capita*

consumption for the two areas excluding Aden during the quinquennium are as follows :—

Year.	Consumption in L. P. Gallons.		*Per capita* consumption in drams.	
	Rural areas.	Urban areas.	Rural areas.	Urban areas.
1919-20 ..	1,408,000	1,450,000	4	23·5
1920-21 ..	1,222,000	1,621,000	3·7	21·8*
1921-22 ..	929,000	1,308,000	2·8	17·3
1922-23 ..	766,000	1,160,000	2·3	15·3
1923-24 ..	775,000	1,062,000	2·4	14

*The reduced per capita consumption in spite of increased total consumption is due to the increase of population in urban areas.

These figures make it abundantly clear that while on the one hand the problem of drink in this Presidency is essentially an urban one, on the other hand great strides have been taken in recent years to bring down consumption to a low level.

The statistics of the sale of foreign liquor in the Presidency proper given in the report are not comparable with those of the previous year owing to a change in the system of keeping accounts. But the totals of wholesale and retail transactions during the past three years show a reduction of 721,000 gallons or 24 per cent. since 1921-22. In Sind the consumption of foreign liquor increased by 46,800 gallons during the year. The increase of 401 in the number of licenses for the sale of foreign liquor in the Presidency proper was due to licenses being taken out in large numbers for the sale of denatured spirit and flavouring essences.

The fall in the consumption of liquor was accompanied by a striking increase of 403,000 gallons in the consumption of toddy. This would at first sight suggest no gain from the temperance point of view but only the replacing of the more expensive intoxicant by a cheaper one. But a detailed examination of the figures of consumption for the various districts fails to support this view. Thus in the town and island of Bombay a decline of 59,000 gallons in the case of country liquor was accompanied by an almost equal (53,000 gallons) fall in toddy, while in the Ahmedabad District, which showed the next largest reduction in liquor, *viz.*, 15,000 gallons, the increase in toddy was 1,400 gallons only. In Surat the consumption of both liquor and toddy rose by 7,851 and 315,529 gallons respectively ; while in Dharwar it fell by 4,662 and 62,482 gallons respectively. In Sholapur an increase of 3,338 gallons in liquor was accompanied by a reduction of 151,887 gallons of toddy.

As pointed out by the Commissioner of Excise, no great reliance can be placed on the figures of toddy consumption since, unlike the figures for

country liquor, they cannot be checked by any independent test. But while the largely increased consumption which they evidence is undoubted, it cannot be affirmed with any degree of certainty that it replaced country liquor to any material extent. The figures cited above would go to show that the reasons for the increase were apparently of a local character; while the fact that the increase of 4,262 licenses in the Presidency proper occurred mainly under the head of Domestic Consumption Licenses would further support the inference that the increased consumption occurred amongst a class who ordinarily use toddy and not amongst those who are addicted to country liquor.

The consumption of Ganja, Bhang and Charas increased by 2,041, 2,754 and 850 seers respectively, while that of opium decreased by 1,673 seers. The latter was due largely to the high price now charged for the drug; while the comparative cheapness of the hemp drugs coupled with other causes led to their increased use. In view of their comparatively harmless nature the increase however calls for no particular notice at this stage. In the case of Bhang the increase occurred in Sind, where Bhang is used as a cooling beverage during the hot weather. The increase of Ganja on the other hand occurred chiefly in the Presidency proper. The Commissioner of Excise is of opinion that this increase is due to people finding country spirit too expensive and resorting to Ganja. It is however noticed that the consumption of Ganja went up by 5,930 seers in the year 1922-23 when the use of Charas, of which 8,588 seers were consumed in the previous year, was stopped in the Presidency proper. This fact would strongly suggest that the increase of Ganja was due to the prohibition of the more deleterious drug, and was only remotely connected, if at all, with the reduced consumption of liquor.

Considerable interest attaches to the fact that although the consumption of country liquor was in excess of the previous year's level in fifteen districts, in no case did it approach the sanctioned ration for the district. The total figures for the whole Presidency, excluding Aden, where the rationing system has not been introduced, are as follows :—

	L. P. gallons.
Sanctioned ration for the year 1923-24 ..	2,425,550
Actual consumption	1,839,033
Unused ration	586,517

" Government are of opinion that although the reasons for this remarkable decline are largely economic, inasmuch as the high cost of living amongst the poorer classes leaves them a comparatively small margin for expenditure on luxuries like drink, the most important factor which keeps down consumption at the present day is the high price of liquor itself " says the Government Resolution reviewing the Excise Administration Report. " This is due in the first place to the increase of still-head duty and the adoption of unrestricted auction as the normal mode of

disposing of the right of vend. But it is undoubted that rationing by inducing the licensees to raise prices in the hope of making the maximum profits from minimum sales plays no small part in producing the result."

Excise crime again showed an increase of 612 cases out of which 419 related to liquor. The primary cause of this increase is the high cost of country liquor, but the causes could also be suggested. For example, in the West Khandesh District which contributed largely to the increase, the closing of the Dhulia Distillery threw an abundant crop of Mhowra flowers on the market and thus furnished plentiful material for distillation. " The increase is thus a direct and natural concomitant, at least during its earlier stages, " says the Resolution referred to above, " of the policy of raising the price of liquor as a means of reducing consumption and of concentrating the manufacture of it at a few central distilleries in the interests of economic production. As stated in the preceding paragraph, the effect of rationing in reducing consumption is indirect rather than direct.

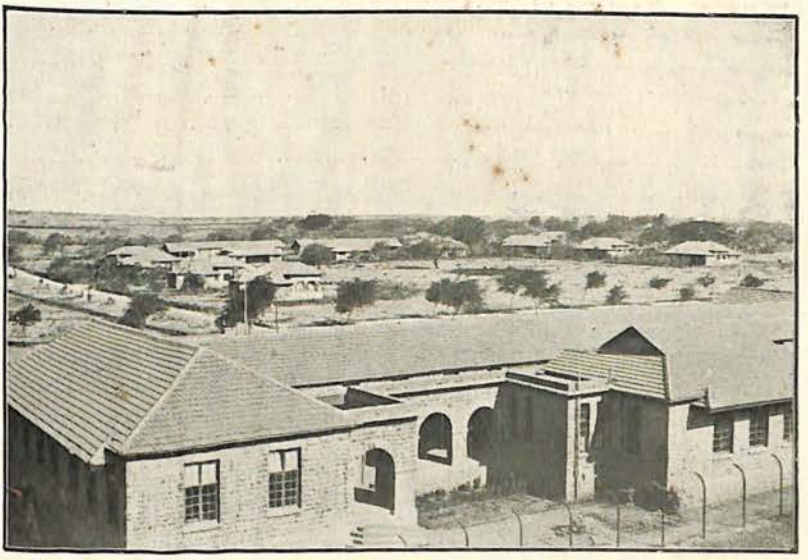
" The increase of crime can therefore no more be attributed to it than to the raising of the still-head duty and the introduction of the auction system. Nor can it, in the opinion of Government, be ascribed wholly to reduced consumption since not only did Bombay and Ahmedabad where the consumption was lower than last year also register a decrease in crime, but in the Surat District, where the consumption of both liquor and toddy increased considerably, there was a marked diminution in the number of offences detected ; while in West Khandesh the increase in crime occurred in spite of a large increase in consumption. Facilities for illicit distillation and kindred offences generally exist in rural areas, which, as stated in paragraph I above actually showed a slight increase in consumption.

" Government are therefore inclined to attribute the increase in crime mainly to the wider causes alluded to above, and are of opinion that, viewed in this light the problem of eradicating this species of crime is as much a question of vigilance on the part of the Excise Department as of the gradual weaning of those addicted to drink, and finding other avenues of employment for those who have been the purveyors of it."

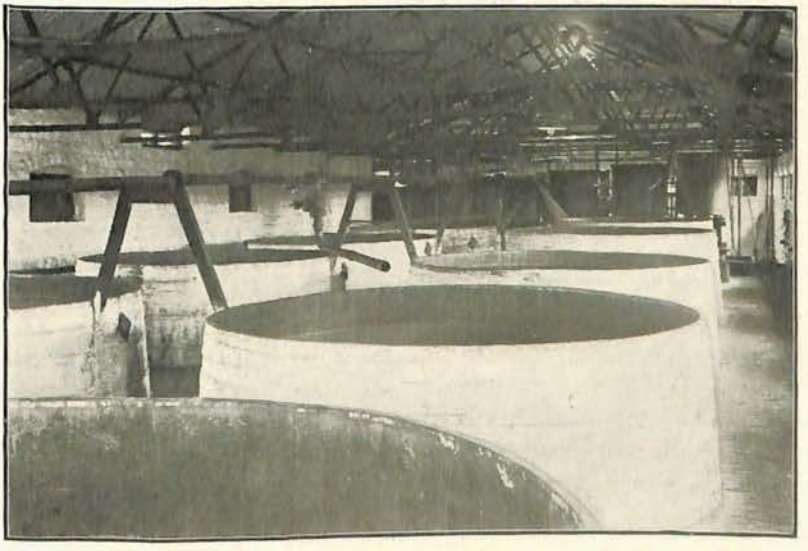
The financial results of the working of the department were satisfactory. The receipts from still-head duty decreased by Rs. 13,33,079 owing to the fall in the consumption of country liquor. But the decrease was counterbalanced by an increase of Rs. 22,05,636 under vend and license fees. The total revenue from all sources in the whole Presidency including Sind and Aden was Rs. 4,21,62,000 against Rs. 3,98,17,000 last year.

Various important changes—fiscal and administrative—were introduced during the year as follows :—

(1) The Dhulia Distillery in the West Khandesh District was closed and the country liquor required for the Dhulia area was supplied from the Nasik Distillery.



Government Central Distillery, Nasik Road.



Khanapur Distillery : The Fermentation room.

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(2) " Off " sales by holders of Canteen Tenant System licenses were prohibited.

(3) In order to place local manufacturers on a par with those in other Provinces and Indian States whose products are freely imported into and consumed within this Presidency, the manufacture of foreign liquor and compounded spirits was permitted in the Presidency proper.

(4) The concession of reduced rate of duty of Rs. 5 per proof gallon, of Indian-made spirits used in medicinal and toilet preparations manufactured in the Presidency or imported therein from Indian States within the geographical limits of the Presidency was extended to various Provinces.

By far the most important administrative measure was the separation, towards the end of the year, of the Excise Department in the Presidency proper from the Salt Department with which it had been amalgamated in successive stages during the quinquennium from 1917 to 1922. A reference to this separation has already been made when reviewing the administration of the Salt Department. The strength of the establishment of the Excise Department was fixed at two Deputy Commissioners and 13 Superintendents. In accordance with the vote of the Legislative Council reducing the provision made in the budget for the Deputy Commissioners one of the two posts was abolished before the close of year, while one post of Superintendent was abolished by the redistribution of the territorial charges in Nasik, Thana and East and West Khandesh.

COTTON DUTIES ACT

There was a further fall in the production of woven goods from 319 million pounds in 1922-23 to 308 million pounds in 1923-24 almost entirely due to the general strikes of the mill-hands at Ahmedabad which extended from 1st April to 4th June 1923 and at Bombay which subsequently developed into a lock-out.

Year.	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Other Districts.	Bombay Presidency.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1922-23 ..	196,144,971	89,618,253	33,017,845	318,781,069
1923-24 ..	194,206,292	79,478,052	34,231,031	307,915,375
Increase ..	....	....	1,213,186	....
Decrease ..	1,938,679	10,140,201	....	10,865,694

The quantity of hosiery produced was 180,116 as against 189,238 pounds in 1922-23. This production is decreasing every year as the industry is unable to compete with Japan.

The following table shows the production of yarn :—

Year.	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Other Districts.	Bombay Presidency.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1922-23 ..	348,099,104	90,082,875	59,169,825	497,351,804
1923-24 ..	269,586,583	75,602,255	53,363,185	398,552,023
Increase ..	....	....	....	....
Decrease ..	78,512,521	14,480,620	5,806,640	98,799,781

The percentage of fine yarn from 21 to 40 counts and upwards was 36·79 against 34·90 for the previous year. The decrease in the production of yarn is chiefly due to the abnormal increase in the price of cotton, the 65 days' Ahmedabad Mill-hands' strike and the Bombay lock-out mentioned above.

The total amount of duty collected was 1 crore 27 lakhs, 30 lakhs less than last year.

The number of mills working in the Bombay Presidency was as shown in the following table :—

Kind of Mill.	1922-23.				1923-24.			
	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Other Districts.	Total.	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Other Districts.	Total.
Spinning	14	11	5	30	10	7	3	20
Spinning and Weaving	62	40	14	116	66	42	15	123
Weaving	5	16	7	28	5	17	10	32
Hosiery	2	2	..	4	3	2	..	5
Total ..	83	69	26	178	84	68	28	180

STAMPS

The revenue realised from the sale of judicial and non-judicial Stamps in the year 1923-24 amounted to Rs. 163 lakhs as against Rs. 160 lakhs in

the previous year. The revenue under the Stamp Act diminished by Rs. 4⅓ lakhs while that under the Court Fees Act increased by Rs. 7¼ lakhs, the improvement being largely due to increased rate of duty. The decrease by over Rs. 7 lakhs in the receipts from the sale of Share Transfer Stamps during the year was an index of the tightness of the money market and the fall in the value of shares. Over 90⅓ lakhs were recovered in Bombay City alone under both the Acts, or 55·39 per cent. of the total Stamp Revenue of the Bombay Presidency.

Out of the revenue of Rs. 5,10,865 derived from duties and penalties levied on insufficiently stamped or unstamped instruments about Rs 4,67,503 were received in Bombay City alone.

The gross revenue from Stamps in Sind amounted to 20½ lakhs, the amount being shared equally under the Stamp and Court Fees Act,—an increase of 1 lakh over the previous year.

TAXES ON INCOME

Income Tax.—The net collection of Income Tax in the Bombay Presidency in 1923-24 amounted to 3 crores 54 lakhs. Of this total 1 crore and 68 lakhs was collected from Companies, Registered Firms, and holders of Government of India and other securities, and 1 crore and 86 lakhs from individuals, unregistered firms and Hindu undivided families, the total income on which the tax was assessed being 20 crores, 97 lakhs and 39 crores, 30 lakhs respectively. The number of individuals, unregistered firms and Hindu undivided families paying income-tax was 66,206. The largest number is to be found in the class whose incomes range from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,499 per year, the total being 18,372 and the tax collected amounting to over 8¾ lakhs. The next highest class is between Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 4,999, the figure being 10,225 and the tax collected amounting to over 10½ lakhs.

Persons with income of Rs. 50,000 and over numbered 1,638 paying 46⅕ lakhs income-tax on an assessed income of 5 crores 14 lakhs.

Super Tax.—There were 16 private individuals and 2 Hindu undivided families in the Bombay Presidency whose assessable incomes to Super-tax amounted to more than 5 lakhs per year and between them they paid nearly 55⅕ lakhs in Super-tax. The number of Companies paying Super-tax on 5 lakhs and over was 101, the amount of tax paid by them being 79⅜ lakhs. One unregistered firm paid 1¼ lakhs in Super-tax.

The total amount paid in Super-tax (on incomes over Rs. 50,000) amounted to 1 crore 81 lakhs.

The Bombay Presidency therefore raised in Super-tax and Income-tax Rs. 5 crores 35 lakhs, a decrease of 2 crores 52 lakhs over the previous year owing to unfavourable condition of the mill industry, depressed condition of the cotton market and heavy refunds.

CHAPTER XI

INSTRUCTION

FOR educational purposes each district, besides the City of Bombay, is provided with a Deputy Inspector with assistants, and there are five Inspectors above them, one for each of the four Educational divisions into which the Presidency proper is now divided and one for the province of Sind. Besides these there are Special Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors for certain subjects. The control of the whole department is vested in the Director of Public Instruction who has under him a Deputy Director, a senior member of the Indian Educational Service.

The principal educational institution in the Presidency is the **University of Bombay,** which alone has the power of conferring degrees recognised as a special qualification for appointments and promotions to posts in Government service. The University also provides facilities for post-graduate teaching.

Below the University are the several affiliated **Colleges** which prepare students for the University examinations. At present there are 16 such colleges teaching the Arts courses, *viz.*, the Elphinstone, Deccan, Gujarat, Karnatak, Wilson, St. Xavier's, Dayaram Jethmal, Fergusson, New Poona, Willingdon, Surat, Sind National College, Hyderabad, Bahauddin, Samaldas, Rajaram and Baroda and six colleges providing instruction in professional courses, *viz*,, the College of Engineering, N. E. D. Civil Engineering College, Karachi, the Grant Medical College, the College of Agriculture, the Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics and the Government Law School.

The Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, opened in 1920, provides facilities for post-graduate research work in Science in addition to the ordinary degree courses in Science.

Below the colleges come the **High Schools,** usually at least one, either Government or aided, at the headquarter town of each district. These prepare students for the School Leaving Examination held by the Joint Examination Board which has replaced both the University Matriculation and the Departmental School Final Examination, the latter of which qualifies for admission into the lower branches of the public service.

Side by side with the High Schools there are the **Middle Schools** which teach the first few standards only of the secondary school course of seven standards. There are also in some places separate high and middle schools for girls.

Below the secondary schools are a large number of **Primary Schools** both for boys and girls in which instruction is given in the vernacular to the vast mass of the people.

There are also institutions for the training of teachers for both secondary and primary schools maintained by Government, *viz.*, the Secondary Training College, Bombay, and the Vernacular Training Colleges for men and women at Ahmedabad, Poona, Dhulia (for men only), Dharwar and Hyderabad. A certain number of district training schools have also been opened during the decade.

For technical and industrial education, there are the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, and the Reay Art Workshops attached to it, the V. J. Technical Institute, Bombay, which is now recognised as the central technological institution for the Presidency, the Workshop classes of the College of Engineering, Poona, the School of Engineering attached to the D. J. Sind College at Karachi and a number of technical and industrial schools, notably the Ranchhodlal Chhotalal Technical Institute, Ahmedabad, the Parekh School of Art, Surat, the Sir D. M. Petit Industrial School, Ahmednagar, the School of Industry at Ratnagiri and the V. J. Technical Institute, Sukkur.

For the proper selection of text-books for use in secondary and primary schools there are six special committees, one, known as the Provincial Text Book Committee, for the consideration of books for use in secondary schools, and five Vernacular Text Book Committees for the consideration of books in Marathi, Gujarati, Kanarese, Sindhi and Urdu.

A Committee of Direction for Technical Education has also been constituted during the decade.

EDUCATION

The total number of recognised educational institutions increased by 243 to 13,512 and the pupils in them by 35,399 to 947,051. The number of unrecognised institutions and the pupils in them decreased by 150 and 3,359 respectively. There was a net increase in the number of institutions and of pupils under instruction of 93 and 32,040 respectively. Eight per cent. of the male population were attending all kinds of schools and colleges against 7·7 per cent. in the preceding year while the percentage of female population under instruction remained stationary at 2·1. In the Indian States the percentages were 6·9 against 6·6 and 1·7 against 1·5 respectively.

Hindu pupils in recognised institutions in British Districts numbered 732,000, Mahomedans over 158,000, Indian Christians more than 31,000, Parsis nearly 17,000, Europeans and Anglo-Indians 4,700. In British Districts out of a total of 26,736 towns and villages, 9,736 possessed schools, the average area served by each town or village with a school being 12·7 square miles. In Indian States there were 3,848 recognised and 964 unrecognised institutions and out of 14,726 towns and villages 3,266 possessed schools, the average area served being 19·5 square miles.

Expenditure on public instruction rose by over Rs. 16 lakhs to about Rs. 328 lakhs. To this total Government funds contributed 57·8 per cent., District Local Board funds 3·1 per cent., Municipal Board funds 11 per cent., fees 16·5 per cent., and other sources 11·6 per cent. Primary schools absorbed over Rs. 166¾ lakhs, exclusive of expenditure on inspection, construction and repairs. Expenditure on buildings, furniture and apparatus in recognised institutions amounted to Rs. 12,88,000 as against Rs. 14,39,000 in the previous year. The expenditure in respect of recognised institutions in Indian States rose by Rs. 1¼ lakhs to over Rs. 37 lakhs.

University.—The number of candidates for the School Leaving Certificate Examination for the purpose of Matriculation increased by 657 to 7,732 of whom 4,362 or 56·4 per cent. passed, compared with 61·1 per cent. last year. There were 1,053 successful candidates out of 1,872 examined for the Intermediate Examination in Arts, the percentage of passes being 56·2. The number of successful candidates at the B.A. Examination held in October 1923 and April 1924, was 645 as against 667 in the preceding year. Of these 184 obtained Honours—23 in Class I and 161 in Class II. At the B.Sc. Examination 93 candidates out of 177 examined were successful. Of the 106 candidates for the M.A. Examination 68 passed, 7 in Class I and 23 in Class II. In examinations for professional degrees, excluding the Medical Examinations there were 459 successful candidates. The expenditure on the University excluding expenditure on Colleges and the School of Economics and Sociology was over Rs. 4½ lakhs.

Arts Colleges.—The total number of students in the 12 Arts Colleges in British Districts rose by 782 to 5,896 including 280 women, as against 219 in the preceding year. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 9,578 to over Rs. 14 lakhs.

Professional Education.—The attendance—884—at the Government Law School remained stationary. Pupils receiving instruction in Commerce and Engineering at Colleges increased to 380 and 299 as against 358 and 263 last year.

Education in Art.—The number of students at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, decreased by 14 to 376 and the numbers in the Reay Art Workshops by 25 to 118. These classes devoted much time during the year to work for the British Empire Exhibition.

Technical and Industrial Education.—The number of schools increased by 3 to 34 and the number of pupils in them by 143 to 2,429. The expenditure amounted to about Rs. 6 lakhs—an increase of more than Rs. 45,000 over the previous year.

Secondary Education (General).—The total number of secondary schools in the British Districts and Indian States increased by 55 to 720

and the number of pupils in them by 7,464 to 112,150, the total expenditure being over Rs. 72½ lakhs, a rise of Rs. 4½ lakhs.

High Schools.—The number of High schools for boys increased by 19 to 212 and the attendance by 6,864 to 71,074. The number of High schools for girls increased by 1 to 50 and that of pupils by 796 to 8,878.

Middle Schools.—Middle schools for boys increased by 32 to 412 but the attendance in these decreased by 200 to 29,056. Girls' Middle schools increased by 3 to 46 and the number of pupils increased slightly by 4 to 3,142.

Primary Schools.—In British Districts the number of Primary schools for boys increased by 160 to 11,132 and the number of pupils by 23,176 to 723,424. A decrease of 22 schools was however reported from Sind, attributed by the Inspector to the closure of inefficient Mulla schools. There was, however, an increase of nearly 800 pupils. Girls under instruction in Primary schools numbered 166,734, an increase of 6,253. In Indian States the number of Primary schools for boys increased by 83 to 3,245 and the attendance by 7,227 to 213,069. The number of girls' schools also increased by 4 to 327 with a corresponding increase of 1,130 in the number of pupils.

The number of District Local Board and Municipal schools for boys and girls increased by 48 and the number of pupils in them by 22,897 to 695,201. Aided schools increased by 127 to 2,608 and the pupils by over 6,000 to 129,163. Unaided schools decreased by 5 and the number of pupils by 719. There was an increase by 19 to 216 in schools for adults and the number of pupils rose by 623 to 7,025. The total expenditure on Primary Education in British Districts rose from Rs. 157¼ lakhs to over Rs. 166¾ lakhs. Of this Government contributed Rs. 110·4 lakhs, District Local Board funds Rs. 6·3 lakhs, Municipal funds Rs. 31·3 lakhs, while the income from fees was Rs 5·8 lakhs and from other sources Rs. 13 lakhs. In Indian States the expenditure increased by Rs. 68,654 to over Rs. 19½ lakhs.

Training Institutions.—There were 17 training institutions for men with 1,153 pupils and 20 for women, with 873 pupils. Of the training institutions for men, 15 with 1,058 pupils were in British Districts—13 with an attendance of 980 under public management and 2 with 78 pupils under private management. Two training institutions with 95 pupils were maintained by Indian States. Of the women's training institutions 6 with 279 students under public management, and 13 with 529 students under private management were in British Districts ; and one with 65 pupils was maintained by an Indian State.

Mahomedans.—The total number of Mahomedans under instruction in recognised institutions in British Districts increased by 5,410 to 158,560 of whom 22,529 were in girls' schools. All the Divisions show an increase

with the exception of Sind which shows a slight decrease of 193 pupils, due to the closure of inefficient Mulla schools. The number of Mahomedan pupils in Arts Colleges increased by 39 to 285, in Professional Colleges by 19 to 106, in Secondary schools by 918 to 6,710, in Primary schools by 3,962 to 146,577 and in Special schools by 472 to 4,882.

Intermediate Classes.—The total number of pupils under instruction increased by 26,846 to 375,183 of whom 103,420 belong to the Maratha community proper, 153,405 to the Koli, Kunbi and other cultivating classes, 51,453 to the Artisan classes and 66,905 are Lingayats.

Aboriginal and Hill Tribes.—The total number of pupils increased by 1,069 to 13,451.

Criminal Tribes.—The total number of pupils increased by 941 to 6,529.

Depressed Classes.—The total number of pupils increased by 5,812 to 47,777.

Reformatory Schools.—There are four institutions with 708 pupils, three under the Educational Department and the fourth under the Jail Department. The policy of conducting the Yeravda Reformatory as a School and not as a Penitentiary has met with considerable success.

YERAVDA REFORMATORY

There were 151 juveniles in the Reformatory School, Yeravda, their ages ranging from 10 to 17 years. Forty-two of these juveniles were Mohamedans, 4 Brahmins, 11 Depressed Classes, 7 Lingayats, 4 Christians and 83 other Hindus. There were 32 admissions during the year as compared with 41 in the previous year. Several guardians applied to the Superintendent of the School for the admission of their wards but such boys could not be admitted under the Reformatory Schools Act.

The behaviour of the boys was satisfactory and showed an appreciable improvement. There were only 27 offences involving 24 boys and relating mainly to breaches of discipline. The health of the inmates continued to be good on the whole. The average number of boys who earned gratuity increased from 112 to 116 while the average earnings per boy per annum decreased from Rs. 3-0-3 to Rs. 2-12-10.

Carpentry, smithy, painting and upholstering work, book-binding, gardening and agriculture were taught in the school. The 148 boys actually residing in the school were employed as follows :—

Twenty-six in carpentry, 16 in smithy, 24 in painting, 16 in book-binding and 66 in gardening or agriculture. All the workshops were busy in executing outside orders, *e.g.*, making or repairing furniture, repairing or upholstering carriages, painting and varnishing motors, etc., and binding books and registers.

The market garden of the school was made to supply seasonal vegetables for the school and fodder for the school bullocks, while the flower garden yielded fruits and flowers. The total earnings from these two gardens amounted to Rs. 1,711, of which articles worth Rs. 1,151 were consumed by the school.

The gross maintenance charges for the year amounted to Rs. 41,795, while the earnings of the school were Rs. 3,434. The net cost to Government for the upkeep of this institution was thus Rs. 38,361.

For the first time in the history of the school a Prize Distribution ceremony was held in the Central Hall of the School on 30th August 1923, when G. W. Hatch, Esquire, I.C.S., M.L.C., Commissioner, Central Division, presided and Mrs. Hatch distributed prizes to successful students. This function has proved very useful in giving an impetus to boys in their work, and it is hoped to make it an annual one. There was provision for Primary Education up to Marathi and Gujarati 5th Standard. Boys in Standard II and upward were also taught ordinary school drawing. Moral instruction was given in the school room once a week as before, and the opportunity was taken to speak to the boys on mora topics at the time of general inspections by the Superintendent. The play-ground proved very useful in helping character-building as boys received practical lessons in co-operation, control of temper, obedience, cheerfulness, etc.

Twenty-eight boys were discharged on the expiry of their term of detention and efforts were made to secure employment for discharged juveniles.

It is interesting to note that out of 95 boys discharged during the triennium 1920—22, only 8 were re-convicted, 12 are untraceable, and the remainder are in employment.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

The chief centres of literary activity continue to be Bombay and Ahmedabad for Gujarati, and Poona for Marathi publications. The lack of originality noted in the last report is still in evidence. A good many books are translations or adaptations from English and a few from Bengali originals. The subject-matter is, on the whole, confined either to the burning social and political topics of to-day or to the golden age of a remote past. Such phrases as " slave mentality " and " soulless bureaucracy " appear with wearisome iteration in every species of book. But as the various authors prescribe such diverse methods of getting rid of these evils (*e.g.*, by Khaddar, soul-force, body-force, singing odes about the past and dirges about the present) the solution may be regarded as still pending.

Most of the dramatic works show deficiency in dramatic power and literary merit, while authors of fiction have mostly a social or political

axe to grind. The plots are crude and the characterisation merely photographic.

The number of books published during 1923 was 2,142 of which 719 were in Gujarati. The other languages used were Marathi (495), English (204), Sindhi (170), Hindi (111), Kanarese (80), Urdu (59), Classical languages (69), Konkani and other dialects (14), while 221 books were in more than one language. There were also 1,258 issues of periodicals, magazines, etc., as distinct from newspapers.

NEWSPAPERS

At the end of the year 1923 there were in all 194 newspapers treating of current political topics as against 174 newspapers in the previous year. Sixty-six newspapers were started during the year under report, but 46 publications having ceased to exist, there was a net increase of 20 publications. Of these 194 newspapers 58 were published in the City of Bombay ; 28 in the Northern Division ; 36 in the Central Division ; 28 in the Southern Division ; 35 in Sind ; and 9 in the Indian States. Seventy-seven or about 40 per cent. were in the hands of Brahmins, and other Hindus were responsible for 67 ; Jains for 7 ; Parsees for 18 ; Mahomedans for 15 and Christians for 10. Eight per cent. were published in English ; 33 per cent. in Marathi ; 22 per cent. in Gujarati ; 2 per cent. in Hindi ; 4 per cent. in Kanarese ; 2 per cent. in Urdu ; 13 per cent. in Sindhi and the remaining 16 per cent. were bi-lingual or tri-lingual newspapers.

The largest circulation continued to be among the weekly papers. But the circulation of the two principal weeklies fell from 27,000 to 24,000 and 15,000 to 8,000.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, BOMBAY

The Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society had 539 resident and 168 non-resident members at the close of the year 1923. During the year the Society lost in the person of Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, one who for years had been closely associated with its progress and fortunes and who gave ungrudgingly of his time, influence and scholarship to the work of the Society. The issues of books and periodicals during the year amounted to nearly 59,000 of which 14,000 were new books, 19,500 periodicals and 25,500 old books. The largest issue, about 21,000 was under fiction, while miscellaneous stood second (2,300) and biography third (2,100). During the year 1,858 volumes were added to the Library, of which 1,447 were purchased and 411 were presented. Thirty-seven additions were made to the coin cabinet of the Society. Out of the total of 1,835 Treasure Trove coins, 239 were returned to the Mamlatdar of Koregaum as being of no numismatic value, 895 were distributed or otherwise disposed of under the orders of Government, thus leaving

701 coins with the Society awaiting examination or distribution, Government sanctioned Rs. 5,000 for shelving in 1923.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, BOMBAY

The number of visitors during the year was over a million and a quarter, the daily average being 4,010. Various additions were made to the exhibits in different sections of the Museum. A collection of war-trophies was received and these will be exhibited in a case specially ordered to receive them. The collection of clay models and figures attracts special attention. A number of photographs of Old Bombay buildings has been received, but cannot be shown owing to insufficient space.

PRINCE OF WALES MUSEUM OF WESTERN INDIA, BOMBAY

The increasing popularity of the Museum has been evidenced by the growing number of all classes of visitors.

Considerable progress has been made in the different sections of the Museum, *viz.*, Archæology, Art, Natural History and Forest.

In the Archæological section several exhibits have been added, including enamelled tiles from Sind, Mr. G. E. L. Carter's collections of stone implements and pottery, Buddhist relics from the Stupa at Mirpurkhas and Persian manuscripts.

Three hundred and sixty-seven coins have been added to the coin cabinet. They include coins of the Greek Kings of Bactria and India, Muhammad bin Sam, etc.

In the Art section the two jade cases which were kindly presented by Lady Ratan Tata have been completed and refitted with exhibits.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

Since the return from England of the Curator of the Natural History Section, a taxidermist department has been established and the work of mounting specimens proceeded with. A collection of mounted animals from England was set up in show cases, the flat skins which were at first exhibited being gradually replaced by mounted specimens.

The Forest section has been removed from the North-West mezzanine front verandah gallery to the central circular gallery on the same floor. A case containing tool handles, picking arms, bobbins, etc., of interest to the textile industry sent by the Government Saw-mill Turnery, Chutterbuckganj, United Provinces, has been added to the exhibits.

VICTORIA MUSEUM, KARACHI

The Museum attracted during the year 274,000 visitors, an average of 875 per day. People visited the Museum in large numbers during

public holidays. The attendance of *pardah nishin* ladies was considerably more than in the previous year. The Curator as usual devoted a certain amount of his time to educational work for the benefit of the students visiting the Museum who greatly appreciated the instructions given them. Several important additions have been made to the Art and Industrial section including specimens of the indigenous arts of the Presidency. A collection of plants has been started and is progressing satisfactorily. It is hoped that this collection will be of great benefit to schools and colleges as an aid to the identification of common plants.

CHAPTER XII

ARCHÆOLOGY

DURING the year under report the grant for conservation of ancient protected monuments in the Western Circle, consequent on the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee, was further reduced to Rs. 81,000 as compared with Rs. 1,04,000 for the previous year. The Bombay Government, however, supplemented the grant by sanctioning Rs. 7,800 for further excavations in the interior of the Shanwar Wada, the Peshwas' Palace in the Poona City. Out of the total grant a sum of Rs. 19,949, was placed at the disposal of the Archæological Department and Rs. 61,051 at the disposal of the Public Works Department both for annual repairs and maintenance and special repairs to monuments under their direct control.

Besides the special repair work in progress at Elephanta and the fort at Bassein the following three works, held in abeyance during the last year for want of funds, were resumed during the year under report, *viz.*, (1) Conservation of the Faria Bagh water-palace at Ahmednagar, (2) Excavation for the ancient remains of the Nizamshahi Kings in the Ahmednagar fort, and (3) Excavations and special repairs to the Peshwas' Palace. The Department also undertook urgent special repairs to the Caves at Karla in the Poona District, and to the temple of Galtesvara Mahadeva at Sarnal in the Kaira District, which was hitherto in charge of the Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department carried out during the year special repairs to the Shahi Bagh Palace (now used as residence of the Commissioner, Northern Division) and the Shah Alam Rauza at Ahmedabad ; the Bhamaria Well at Mehmadabad, the Khajuri Masjid at Champaner, the Sat Manzil at Pavagadh ; the Gol Gumbaz, the Asar Mahal, the Gagan Mahal, the Nari Mahal, the Ibrahimpur Well and the Taj Bavdi at Bijapur ; Caves and temples at Badami ; and temples at Aiholi, the Chalukyan Temple in the Fort at Sholapur ; the Gateways to the Fort at Dharwar and Narasimha Devasthan at Bhatkal in the Kanara District.

In March 1924 excavations were again resumed at Mohen-jo-Daro in Sind and the results of the work have attracted the attention of Archæologists all over the world. Not only were 7 seals of the Harappan class found but important articles illustrating the arts and crafts of that remote age. Excavation of one of the mounds revealed lanes and by-lanes, courtyards, pavements and wells, etc. The total area excavated was nearly 11,000 square feet at an average depth of 7 feet.

The total expenditure on conservation amounted to Rs. 68,844 excluding agency charges. A sum of Rs. 46,659 was spent for the upkeep of the Department during the year.

CHAPTER XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

THE Church Establishments maintained by the State in the Presidency are those of the Established Church of England and the Established Church of Scotland. Certain allowances are also granted by Government to the Roman Catholic Church and the Wesleyan Church for ministrations to troops, etc.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Since 1837 Bombay has been a separate Diocese.

The Diocese includes the territories within the limits of the Presidency of Bombay excepting Sind, which was transferred to the Diocese of Lahore in 1877.

The number of Chaplains in the Diocese during the year was 21 of whom 6 were on leave.

The Right Reverend Edwin James Palmer, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese, returned from leave on the 8th November 1923. During his absence the Ven'ble C. F. W. Hatchell held charge.

The number of confirmations decreased from 761 to 663 and there were thirteen ordinations during the year.

The Bishop consecrated the Church of St. Nicholas, Bombay, and the extension of the Cemetery at Mount Abu.

During the absence of the Lord Bishop of Bombay, the Lord Bishop of Nagpur visited the Diocese and held a confirmation at Poona and Panchgani.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The Church of Scotland in this Presidency was placed on its present basis in 1837. Of the four Chaplains now holding appointments, one is of the Senior rank, one is a Junior Chaplain, and the other two are Chaplains on probation. Two Chaplains in the employment of the Army Department are at present serving under the jurisdiction of the Presidency Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland.

There are at present five Presbyterian Churches and several other buildings used for Divine service scattered throughout the Presidency of Bombay.

The Reverend A. M. Nelson, Presidency Senior Chaplain, went on leave preparatory to retirement and the Reverend R. G. Jamieson, a Senior Chaplain on the Bengal Establishment, acted for him until 28th

July 1923 when he went on leave, returning to duty on the 28th March 1924. The Reverend J. D. Mitchell, a Senior Chaplain on the Madras Establishment, took over his duties on Mr. Jamieson's departure on leave.

During 1923-24 St. Andrew's Church, Bombay, and the Churches at Poona, Kirkee, Karachi and Quetta were served by Chaplains on the Bombay Ecclesiastical Establishment of the Church of Scotland. At Mhow, Deesa, Nasirabad and Aden the duties of Chaplains were performed by Presbyterian Missionaries and at Belgaum by a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

All Chaplains and Acting Chaplains of the Church of Scotland minister to His Majesty's Forces and civilians.

STATIONERY

Steady progress was made in the reorganization of the Stationery Department. The introduction of Model Indents has resulted in a very large reduction in issues of material. The Stationery office now undertakes the supply of many articles which were previously purchased locally by the officers themselves, and money is saved by purchasing in bulk. A small workshop for repairing typewriters has proved successful and in future the repairs of nearly all Government machines will be done departmentally. Most of the paper required for printing and writing was obtained from Indian paper Mills.

PRINTING

During the year a number of special publications including illustrated work, were undertaken by the Government Central Press, Bombay. The amended Factory Act which came into force restricted working hours and reduced the total output, especially in the Mechanical composing sections. Working expenses decreased from Rs. 5¼ lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs, and the cost of paper, binding and rubber stamp materials was less by Rs. 12,000. The total value of work done for Government Offices and Departments was nearly 6 lakhs.

There was a marked increase in the outturn of nearly all Departments at the Yeravda Prison Press, Poona, with a corresponding decrease in the cost per unit. The Press in addition to the usual run of Standard form work produced a number of important publications. The total value of the work done here was Rs. 5¼ lakhs and at the Commissioner's Press, Karachi, over a lakh of rupees.

The total value of maps issued from the Government Book Depot, Poona, during the year was Rs. 5,291 as against Rs. 5,141 in the previous year. Cash receipts increased by Rs. 1,430. The value of official publications supplied to Agents was Rs. 9,427 against Rs. 7,167 in the preceding year.

The turnover of the Government Photo Zinco Press, Poona, amounted to Rs. 1,17,400.

BOMBAY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The working of the Bombay Development Directorate for the year ending 31st March 1924 showed steady progress in the main projects undertaken by the Department except those in the suburbs where a curtailment was considered advisable pending a more active demand for the developed building sites which have already been made available.

BACK BAY RECLAMATION SCHEME

The construction of the sea-wall proceeded uninterruptedly during the year, and at the end of the period under review more than two miles of the concrete wall, out of a total length of four miles, had been completed. At the Marine Lines end of the reclamation the gantry had reached 6,550 feet from zero, the rubble mound with protection blocks to 6,480 feet and the concrete superstructure to 5,630 feet; whilst at the Colaba end the rubble mound had been extended to 8,796 feet from zero and the concrete wall to 5,736 feet. A special feature of the year's work was the success of the new method of constructing the concrete wall with the aid of portable steel forms, a device which proved so satisfactory that the rate of progress is now in the neighbourhood of 1,000 lineal feet per month. Considerable progress was also made in the construction of storm-water drains at both ends of the area to be reclaimed.

A vast amount of preliminary work was accomplished during the year under review with regard to the dredging and filling operations. One pipe line across the Colaba peninsula was completed, as also was the floating pipe line which connects the land line with the dredgers and the laying of a second land line was commenced. The actual dredging was started early in December last, the amount of material deposited at the end of the year being some 500,000 cubic yards. The approxmiate total expenditure on the Back Bay Reclamation up to 31st March 1924, including interest charges, was nearly Rs. 406½ lakhs.

Work on the East Colaba Reclamation was not commenced during the year, but a branch railway line with a level crossing over the main Colaba Road was completed in readiness for constructional operations at a later date.

TOWN PLANNING SCHEMES

The position of the four Town Planning Schemes, *viz.*, Santa Cruz No. 2, Ville Parle No. 1, Andheri No. 2, and Malad No. 1 referred to in the year's report, is as follows :—

The work on the Santa Cruz Town Planning Scheme No. 2 was at a stand-still during the year under review for want of funds. Only current repairs were carried out at a cost of Rs. 2,700.

In the Ville Parle Town Planning Scheme No. 1 all the roads have been completed and opened for traffic, but the storm-water drainage has still to be carried out. This will be taken up as soon as further funds are available.

The Andheri Town Planning Scheme No. 2 was completed in all respects during the year at a total cost of Rs. 26,500.

In Malad Town Planning Scheme No. 1 only works of the nature of maintenance and repairs were possible during the year, as no funds were available for the completion of the work.

No fresh schemes were sanctioned during the year, but those mentioned in last year's report were in various stages of preparation. Petitions were, however, received during the year for the cancellation of three of the schemes, *viz.*, Bandra Town Planning Scheme No. 3, Santa Cruz Town Planning Scheme No. 4 and Kandivli Town Planning Scheme No. 1.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING

Considerable progress was made in the industrial housing project the equivalent of 131 chawls having been finished against the programme of 135. The total number of chawl buildings fully completed on 31st March 1924 was 80, of which 49 were handed over for letting as follows :—

Naigaum plot A	..	..	.. 19
DeLisle Road	..	..	.. 15
Worli	..	..	.. 15

In regard to the remaining 31 chawls, water-supply, drainage and sewer connections were not completed. On account of the low pressure in the Municipal water mains, the erection of temporary pumping plants and reservoirs was found necessary at all sites, while septic tanks have been constructed at Naigaum and DeLisle Road.

The only new scheme undertaken during the year was that at Sewri, where sufficient land has been leased from the Bombay Port Trust for the construction of 16 chawls (1,280 tenements) for the workmen at the new Cotton Depôt. The contract was let towards the end of the year and work was being vigorously pushed forward at the close.

The Industrial Housing Scheme of 50,000 tenements was conceived during the boom period when labour conditions in Bombay were probably abnormal. It is beginning to be doubted whether there exists at present any such shortage, and in order to avoid the risk of overbuilding, Government have decided not to take up any more land for housing until the chawls now under construction (16,880 tenements) have been completed.

There has been little difficulty in letting rooms at Naigaum and DeLisle Road, but at Worli the vacancies are considerable. The latter area lacks adequate communications, as well as the ordinary amenities of proper

roads and lighting. In time, however, when the necessary roads have been completed and lighted, and when all construction work has been finished, shops and markets provided, it is expected that there will be no difficulty in finding tenants in the chawls at Worli.

In letting the chawls encouragement has been given to various bodies such as the Social Service League, the Depressed Classes Mission, the Maratha Samaj, the Dnyanodaya Samaj, and certain Christian organisations, to take complete blocks.

The vital statistics maintained by the Land Manager, Development Directorate, show a death rate during the year in the Directorate chawls of 6·66 per thousand, compared with the average for the Municipal wards in which the chawls are situated of 35·90 or for the whole city of 31·11 per thousand.

SUBURBAN SCHEMES

As stated above a more cautious policy was adopted in regard to these schemes and expenditure incurred to meet urgent necessities only.

Of the industrial schemes no noteworthy progress was made in scheme No. 1 (Kurla-Kirol Industrial Area). One site was sold and a small match factory was erected and brought into use.

In scheme No. 15 a fourth factory site was sold at Ambernath to the Western India Match Company. By the end of the year the factory buildings were nearly completed and the plant was under erection. Owing to the increase in the population of the area, the temporary water-supply was found to be inadequate and arrangements were being made at the end of the year to distribute water from the permanent supply. The approach roads to all existing factories were completed, together with a road connecting Ambernath Station with the Kalyan-Badlapur Road. Roads for staff bungalows and workmen's quarters were practically finished. A shuttle service was started by the G. I. P. Railway between Kalyan and Ambernath, while the remodelling of Ambernath Station to deal with the traffic of the factories and the provision of an arterial siding for the factories were under the consideration of the G. I. P. Railway Company.

Under scheme 21 (Ambernath Water Supply) the barrage, including the steel gates, and weir were completed during the year. The filtration plant with the exception of a few minor items was finished and is expected to be in working order shortly.

The remaining schemes are briefly noted below.

Scheme No. 2 (Trombay, North-East).—Work on the new tannery area remained in abeyance during the year, the Bombay Municipality having granted renewals of licenses to the Dharavi tanners for a further period of two years. Pending settlement of the question of the removal of this

trade from the Island of Bombay, the work of constructing roads, drainage, water-supply, etc., in the area has been postponed. An area of 300 acres, south of the Sion-Trombay Road, has been allotted to the Bombay Municipality for the purpose of milch-cattle stables. In connection with the new slaughter house area in this scheme, certain minor drainage works were undertaken, in consultation with the Municipal Executive, with a view to diverting surface water and to render the area immune from flooding.

Scheme No. 3 (Trombay, North-West).—The Chembur Sector of this scheme, which has been designated "Chembur Garden Suburb", has now a road system completed and has been provided with a pipe water-supply. A passenger service between Kurla and Chembur was started in February 1924. The service is well patronised, especially in the mornings and evenings.

In **Scheme No. 6 (Danda)** several settlements with original owners were effected and it is proposed shortly to take in hand the construction of the roads including the extension of Turner Road, which will give direct access to the Bandra-Ghodbunder Road and to Bandra Railway Station.

Scheme No. 7 (Khar).—Work in this scheme was practically in abeyance during the year owing to the prolonged delay in the construction of the new Khar station on the B. B. &. C. I. Railway. The erection of houses on plots already sold proceeded slowly during the year, but a certain number had been completed and occupied at the close.

Scheme No. 8 (Chapel Road, Bandra).—The roads throughout the whole of this scheme were completed during the period, and of the net building area of 104,768 square yards, there remained but 21,465 square yards unsold at the end of the year.

Scheme No. 9 (Murzbanabad).—The owners in this scheme have agreed to the plan of development, and the principal roads may possibly be constructed in the near future, the subsidiary roads being postponed to a later date. The development of the area will cost owners Re. 1 per square yard of the building plot retained *plus* a contribution of the land necessary for roads.

Scheme No. 16 (Shahar-Andheri Sector).—This scheme was submitted to Government during the year and it was decided to proceed with it gradually, provided a substantial proportion of owners in the scheme were prepared to negotiate settlements on the basis of the retention of their lands on payment of a betterment rate. Negotiations were opened by the Land Manager, Development Directorate, with a number of owners, but although there is a general inclination to effect settlements, the majority of owners desire postponement in view of the present state of the land market. The scheme is not, therefore, being pressed at the present time.

In **Scheme No. 18 (Kirol-North),** five of the roads were completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 40,000. Only one building plot was sold and no further development is contemplated until the land market shows signs of revival.

SALSETTE-TROMBAY AND KURLA-TROMBAY RAILWAYS

The Salsette-Trombay Railway line was practically completed as a single line by the end of the year except for the bridge over the G. I. P. Railway at Kurla, which has recently been taken in hand by the Railway Company. The main object of the railway is to bring stone for road making in Central Salsette from the quarries in Trombay, and ultimately to provide a tramway service to open up the areas through which it passes which are at present without any means of communication. As road-making in Central Salsette is in abeyance owing to the prevailing stagnation in the land market, the line is not required for stone traffic at present, but proposals were under consideration at the close of the year for running a tramway service between Andheri and Kurla, and eventually to Anik when the bridge at Kurla is completed.

As regards Kurla-Trombay Railway the first 1·86 miles of the Municipal kutchra siding from Kurla was taken over from the Municipality and formally transferred to the G. I. P. Railway who, towards the end of the year, established a regular passenger train service between Kurla and Chembur to the great convenience of residents in the latter area.

Roads.—During the year a further length of 1½ miles of the Bandra-Ghodbunder Road between Bandra and Andheri was provided with a tar macadam surface, leaving a balance of ¾ths of a mile still to be done. The total expenditure during the year on improvement and maintenance was about Rs. 95,000. The road from Santa Cruz Station to the Bandra-Ghodbunder Road, a short length of 1,150 feet, was transferred to the Development Department in May 1923, and during the year under report was reconstructed and widened with a view to bringing it up to the standard required for modern conditions of traffic. Some preliminary widening of the Bandra Causeway was also carried out at the northern end, where the road was very narrow. The main widening will be undertaken on the east of the Causeway at a later date, when the Bombay Municipality are in a position to commence widening the southern half of the Causeway which lies within Municipal limits.

WATER SUPPLY

Unlike the majority of the Suburban Schemes which are in a state of suspended animation owing to the absence of demand for land, it has been possible to make steady progress with the distribution of the bulk water-supply of 2·7 million gallons daily, obtained from the Bombay Municipality.

An estimate amounting to Rs. 1,43,000 was sanctioned in November 1923 for water supply to Santa Cruz and Juhu and the work of laying the 9", 8" and 6" pipe lines from the Tulsi main was completed at the close of the year at a cost of approximately Rs. 70,000.

An estimate amounting to Rs. 1,44,400 was sanctioned and tenders called for for additions and alterations to Andheri water-supply and the work of laying the new pipes was put in hand.

ORGANISATION OF THE DIRECTORATE

During the year there has been an increase in the establishment employed on the Reclamation Works owing to the entertainment of the special technical staff required for working the dredging plant. A special dredging section was organised under an officer of the grade of Deputy Chief Engineer and the Reclamation Branch is, therefore, now organised in four sections, *viz.*, Kandivli Quarry, Marine Lines, Colaba and Dredging Sections. Apart from the reclamation branch, there has been considerable retrenchment due partly to the slowing down of the activities of the Directorate in the Suburban Area, and also to the substitution of contract for departmental work in the housing scheme. The four project Divisions have been reduced to two by the amalgamation of Nos. 1 and 4 and of Nos. 2 and 3. There is thus a reduction of two Superintending Engineers as well as corresponding retrenchment in the grades below.

SANITARY COMMITTEE

A report was submitted by the Chairman, Sanitary Committee, on the sanitary condition of the reclamation for the period from the 26th January 1923 to 31st March 1924. The Committee paid three visits after the commencement of the pumping and were satisfied that there was no odour and no nuisance, and that the precautions taken to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes were adequate and effective.

MILITARY (INDIAN AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES)

Auxiliary Force (India).—There was nothing of special interest to report during the year under review. The general situation was satisfactory.

Indian Territorial Force.—The recruiting for the 11th/5th Mahratta Light Infantry has made progress, but it is unfortunate that so few Districts have been able to find the 39 men required to complete a District platoon. North Kanara District was well ahead with two platoons raised by the zeal and energy of the Branch Committee for the I. T. F. in Karwar of which Diwan Bahadur Yannemadi is the Chairman.

The orders issued by the Bombay Government in June last will, it is hoped, be instrumental in bringing this unit up to strength.

Bombay University Training Corps.—This unit is upto full strength and the organisation in excellent working order. The state of training is necessarily very elementary as about 25 per cent. of the members are discharged annually on account of leaving College, etc. The University Authorities are alive to the physical and moral benefits accruing to students from membership of the Corps, and it is hoped therefore to secure their co-operation in ensuring better attendance at drills and in camp.

Karachi Corps Auxiliary Force.—Recruiting was brisk and enrollment had to be stopped owing to the Corps being upto the authorised establishment.

The Second Battalion, B. B. & C. I. Railway Regiment, A. F. (India).—The strength of the Battalion has increased from 840 to 881. The Battalion took part in several competitions and won the Richardson Challenge Cup for the third year in succession, the All India Auxiliary Force Hockey Tournament at Allahabad, the A. F. I. Cup in the Mussoorie Boxing Tournament and two silver medals in the Army Championships.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Bombay and Karachi Societies.—During the year 1923 the Agents of the Society in Bombay City prosecuted in 10,053 cases of cruelty to animals. In 9,441 cases fines were inflicted, in 13 cases the offenders were fined or in default sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, in 546 the accused were warned and discharged and in 23 the accused were acquitted. 1,445 animals were sent to the Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals for treatment, while 6 animals in cruelty cases and 231 other animals sent from the Hospital and found to be suffering from incurable diseases were sent to the Pinjrapole at Bombay. In Bandra there were 186 prosecutions, fines being inflicted in 178 cases. In four cases the accused were warned and discharged The whole of the fines levied in cruelty cases prosecuted by the Society's Agents are given to the Society after deducting certain charges. The amount thus received by the Society in 1923 was Rs. 32,538 out of the total receipts of Rs. 34,140. The expenditure was Rs. 41,350.

In Karachi there were 2,068 cases of cruelty to animals prosecuted by the Inspectors of the Society and 2,050 convictions were obtained. The total realisations from fine by the Society's Karachi Branch including arrears of the previous year were Rs. 8,664.

APPENDIX I

RESERVED SUBJECTS

(1) Water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power.
(2) Land Revenue Administration.
(3) Famine Relief.
(4) Land Acquisition.
(5) Administration of Justice.
(6) Provincial Law Reports.
(7) Administrators-General and Official Trustees.
(8) Non-judicial stamps ; judicial stamps.
(9) Development of mineral resources which are Government property.
(10) Industrial matters, included under the following heads :—
  (*a*) Factories ;
  (*b*) Settlement of labour disputes ;
  (*c*) Electricity ;
  (*d*) Boilers ;
  (*e*) Gas ;
  (*f*) Smoke Nuisances ; and
  (*g*) Welfare of labour and housing.
(11) Ports (with certain exceptions).
(12) Inland water-ways, including shipping and navigation, not declared central subjects.
(13) Police, including railway police.
(14) (*a*) Regulation of betting and gambling ;
  (*b*) Prevention of cruelty to animals ;
  (*c*) Protection of wild birds and animals ;
  (*d*) Control of poisons ;
  (*e*) Control of motor vehicles ; and
  (*f*) Control of dramatic performances and cinematographs.
(15) Control of newspapers, books and printing presses.
(16) Coroners.
(17) Excluded Areas.
(18) Criminal Tribes.
(19) European vagrancy.
(20) Prisons, prisoners (except State prisoners) and reformatories.
(21) Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass.
(22) Treasure trove.
(23) Provincial Government Presses.
(24) Elections, Indian and Provincial.

(25) Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards.
(26) Local Fund Audit.
(27) Control of members of all-India and provincial services serving within the province and control of public services within the province other than all-India services.
(28) Sources of provincial revenue—
(*a*) taxes included in the Schedules to the Scheduled Taxes Rules, or
(*b*) taxes, not included in those Schedules, which are imposed by or under provincial legislation which has received the previous sanction of the Governor General.
(29) Borrowing of money on the sole credit of the province.

TRANSFERRED SUBJECTS

(1) Local Self-Government (except Cantonments).
(2) Medical administration.
(3) Public health, sanitation and vital statistics.
(4) Pilgrimages within British India.
(5) Education (with some exceptions).
(6) Public Works—
(*a*) Construction and maintenance of provincial buildings.
(*b*) Roads, bridges, ferries, etc.
(*c*) Tramways within municipal areas.
(*d*) Light and feeder-railways and extra-municipal tramways for which provision is made by provincial legislation.
(7) Agriculture.
(8) Civil Veterinary Department.
(9) Fisheries.
(10) Co-operative Societies.
(11) Forests.
(12) Excise.
(13) Registration of deeds and documents.
(14) Registration of births, deaths and marriages.
(15) Religious and Charitable Endowments.
(16) Development of industries, including industrial research and technical education.
(17) Stores and stationery required for transferred Departments.
(18) Adulteration of food-stuffs and other articles.
(19) Weights and measures.
(20) Libraries and museums (with certain exceptions).

APPENDIX II

List of official Reports used in the compilation of this Volume.

PART II

CHAPTER I

INDIAN STATES

Annual Reports of the Indian States referred to in the Chapter and of Aden for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER II

LAND RECORDS

Annual Report of the Department of Land Records in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind), Report of the Collector and Talukdari Settlement Officer, Ahmedabad, and the Report on the Administration of Incumbered Estates in Sind for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER III

LAW AND JUSTICE

Report on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the Bombay Presidency and Report on the Administration of the Registration Department for the year 1923, Annual Report on the working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for the year 1923-24, and Proceedings of the Bombay Legislative Council.

CHAPTER IV

POLICE AND CRIME

Annual Reports on the Bombay District Police and the Bombay City Police, Administration Reports on Government Workhouses, Administration Report of the Bombay Jail Department and the Report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1923.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

The Season and Crop Report of the Bombay Presidency, the Report of the Department of Agriculture, Land Revenue Administration Report

of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind, Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency, Annual Report on Forests, Note on the Weather of the Bombay Presidency and the Annual Report of the Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona, for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER VI

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Annual Report of the Department of Industries for the year 1923-24, Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1923, Report on the Administration of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Department, Annual Report of the Bombay Smoke Nuisances Commission, Annual Report on the Sea-borne Trade and Customs Administration of the Bombay Presidency, Report on the Maritime Trade of the Province of Sind, Report on the Trade and Navigation of the Port of Aden, and Annual Reports on Shipping Offices, Bombay, Karachi and Aden for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC WORKS

Administration Report of the Public Works Department for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER VIII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for the Government of Bombay for the year 1923, Report on Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries for the year 1923-24, Annual Report of the Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory and Report on Mental Hospitals for the year 1923, Report on Vaccination in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1923-24, Annual Reports of the Chemical Analysers to Government, Bombay and Sind, for the year 1923, and Annual Administration Report of the Civil Veterinary Department in the Bombay Presidency including Sind for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER IX

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure for the Bombay Presidency including Sind, Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, Annual Report on Local Boards in the Bombay Presidency, Administration Report of the City of Bombay

Improvement Trust and Annual Reports on Port Trusts, Bombay, Karachi and Aden, for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER X

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Annual Report on the Sea-borne Trade and Customs Administration of the Bombay Presidency, Report on the Maritime Trade of the Province of Sind, Reports on the Administration of the Salt Department of the Bombay Presidency and in Sind, Reports on the Administration of the Excise Department in the Bombay Presidency, Sind and Aden, Annual Report of the Stamp Department in the Bombay Presidency and Sind, and the Annual Report on Income Tax for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER XI

INSTRUCTION

Report of the Director of Public Instruction in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1923-24, Report of the Reformatory School at Yeravda and the Report of the Royal Asiatic Society (Bombay Branch) for the year 1923, Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, and the Annual Report of the Victoria Museum, Karachi, for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER XII

ARCHÆOLOGY

Progress Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Western Circle, for the year 1923-24.

CHAPTER XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

Administration Reports for the Diocese of Bombay and of the Presidency Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, Bombay Presidency, Annual Report on Government Printing and Stationery, and the Report on the working of the Development Department for the year 1923-24 and the Annual Reports of the Bombay and Karachi Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the years 1923 and 1923-24, respectively.

APPENDIX III

GOVERNOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, 1923-24.

His Excellency Sir George Ambrose Lloyd, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.S.O. (Vacated office, 8th December 1923).

His Excellency Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, P.C., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., D.S.O (Took his seat, 10th December 1923).

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, 1923-24.

The Honourable Sir Maurice H. W. Hayward. Kt.	Home Member and Vice-President of Council.
The Honourable Mr. H. S. Lawrence (on leave). The Honourable Mr. P. R. Cadell (Temporary) (Took his seat, 28th January 1924).	Finance Member.
The Honourable Mr. C. V. Mehta .. (Took his seat, 22nd June 1923).	Revenue Member.
The Honourable Sir C. H. Setalvad .. (Vacated office, 16th June 1923). The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir .. (Took his seat, 23rd June 1923).	General Member.

MINISTERS, 1923-24.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Shaikh Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah.	Minister of Local Self-Government.
The Honourable Dr. R. P. Paranjpye .. (Vacated office, 7th Dec. 1923). The Honourable Mr. B. V. Jadhav .. (Took his seat, 21st Dec. 1923).	Minister of Education.
The Honourable Mr. C. V. Mehta .. (Vacated office, 22nd June 1923). The Honourable Khan Bahadur Shaikh Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah (in addition to his own portfolio). The Honourable Mr. Ali Mahomed Khan Dehlavi. (Took his seat, 21st Dec. 1923).	Minister of Forests and Excise.

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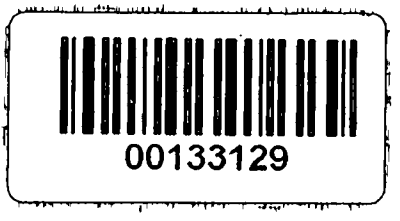
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